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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P 224

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

Revised

1. STATE <b>Washington</b>	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. <b>XX - Architecture, XV - The Fur Trade</b>
3. NAME(S) OF SITE <b>The Granary and Factor's House, Fort Nisqually</b>	4. APPROX. ACREAGE <b>640 acres</b>
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) <b>Pierce County in Point Defiance Park, entrance at 45th and Pearl Sts., Tacoma.</b>	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) <b>City of Tacoma</b>	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant!)	

Statement of Significance

The Fort Nisqually Granary, built in 1843, is the only surviving original example in the United States of the Hudson's Bay Company's "posts-in-the-sill" or Canadian method of log construction,--a type of log construction that was widely used by the fur traders, missionaries, and settlers of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington prior to 1846. The granary is also the oldest extant structure in Washington. The major Pacific Northwest fur trading forts built, or rebuilt, on the posts-in-the-sill method of log construction include the following examples:

1. Fort Astoria (later Fort George) (1811-1850).
2. Spokane House, Washington (1811-1826).
3. Fort Okanogan, Washington (1811-1860).
4. Old Fort Walla Walla (Nez Perce), Washington (1818-1855).
5. Fort Vancouver, Washington (1824-1860).
6. Old Fort Colville, Washington (1826-1871).
7. Old Fort Umpqua, Oregon (1832-1851).
8. Fort Nisqually, Washington (1833-1869).
9. Old Fort Boise, Idaho (1834-1856).
10. Fort Hall, Idaho (1834-1856).
11. Fort Stikine, Alaska (1840-1867).
12. Fort Yukon, Alaska (1847-1869).

(Continued)

The only two surviving structures of all these former Hudson's Bay Company posts are the Granary and Factor's House of Fort Nisqually. In 1839-42, adobe, as well as logs, was also used in rebuilding Old Fort Walla Walla, Fort Okanogan, Fort Hall, and Old Fort Boise.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works) Old Fort Nisqually Lives Again (Booklet written by Della Gould Emmons, for the Fort Nisqually Restoration Council, Tacoma, n.d.); The New Washington (American Guide Series) (Portland, 1950) 155, 275-76; Marius Barbeau "The House that Mac Built, The Beaver, outfit 276 (December, 1945), 10-13); Alfred L. Gehri; "Fort Nisqually Lives Again," in the Beaver outfit 265, No. 2 (September, 1934), 54.
9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention our reports and studies, as, NPS study, IABBS, etc.)

See page 4.

10. PHOTOGRAPHS #1335, 1333 ATTACHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	11. CONDITION <b>Restored &amp; Reconstructed Park and Museum</b>	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) <b>Park and Museum</b>	13. DATE OF VISIT <b>Aug. 31, 1959</b>
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Charles W. Snell</i> <b>Charles W. Snell</b>	15. TITLE <b>Historian</b>	16. DATE <b>Feb. 16, 1967</b>	

\* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

UNITED STATES  
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NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS  
SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

Page 2.

STATE

Washington

NAME(S) OF SITE

The Granary and Factor's House, Fort Nisqually

7. Continued.

History

The most important establishment in the Pacific Northwest prior to 1846 was the trading post.<sup>2</sup> These fortified posts or "forts" were all built on a similar basic plan. A tall stockade comprised of upright logs enclosed a square or rectangular area. At the diagonally opposite corners of the wall were usually situated two two-story log blockhouses, which provided a flanking fire along the stockade in case of attack. Within the palisade were situated the commanding officer's house, barracks and dwellings for the trappers and their families, workshops, trading houses, and warehouses--all constructed of logs.

Fort Nisqually was built on this typical plan by Archibald McDonald for the Hudson Bay Company in 1833. Located at Dupont, 15 miles south of the future site of Tacoma, Fort Nisqually was the first permanent white settlement on Puget Sound and it was also a communication and supply center for the Hudson's Bay Company's northern posts on the coast of the British Company. In addition, in 1840, Fort Nisqually became the headquarters of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, a subsidiary corporation of the Hudson's Bay Company. As a result of these increasing functions, Fort Nisqually was rebuilt and enlarged between 1843 and 1845. Fort Nisqually and its farms were occupied by the Hudson's Bay Company until 1869, when the final terms of the settlement compensating the company for giving up its possessory rights in the former Oregon Country was signed by the American and British Governments.

<sup>2</sup>The first fur trading post in the Pacific Northwest was established at Fort Astoria, Oregon, in 1811-12. Built by Americans, this company was forced by war condition to sell Fort Astoria and its other posts to a rival British fur firm in 1813. In 1821 rival British fur companies merged with the Hudson's Bay Company, and from 1821 to 1846, with a complete monopoly of the fur trade, the Hudson's Bay Company was the dominant force in the Pacific Northwest.

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Page 3.

STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
Washington	The Granary and Factor's House, Fort Misqually

7. Continued.

Only two original buildings of the fort, the Granary and Factor's House were standing in 1934, when these structures were removed from the original site and re-erected and restored in Point Defiance Park at Tacoma. The rest of the fort, including the stockade, two blockhouses, and 8 other buildings, were reconstructed around the two original structures at the new site.

Condition

A. Granary, 1843.

The granary, measuring 20 by 31 feet, is a one-story building built in the post-in-the-sill manner. In this method of construction a sill of heavy timbers was laid down for the base of the proposed log structure. The ends of these timbers were usually fastened together at the corners by interlocking joints. The sill sometimes rested directly on the ground but more often, and as was the case with the present granary, was elevated by wooden blocks or piles. At the corners and at convenient intervals along the sill, usually at every 6 to 10 feet, heavy upright posts were planted by means of mortises. These uprights were grooved, and into their grooves were slid the tenoned ends of horizontally-lying logs or timbers which filled the empty spaces between the uprights and formed the wall.

In the granary the heavy fir logs were adzed to timbers 10 by 14 inches square with tenons on the ends. The tenons were mortised into the grooves in the heavy upright corner posts and pinned with oak dowels. Oak pegs three feet long were also driven down through holes bored in the horizontal timbers, thus making a very strong construction. The building's gabled roof is covered by hand-split cedar shakes. Batten boards comprise the siding under the eaves at the ends and the six windows have solid batten board shutters. The round arch entrance has solid double batten doors. Inside the structure are five grain bins which are arranged around the sides of the building.

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Page 4.

STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
California	The Granary and Factor's House, Fort Nisqually

B. Factor's House, 1845.

Erected in 1845 this frame, clapboard sided structure with attic, measures 66 by 38 feet. The 5-room house is divided by a central hall with a stairway leading to the attic. The two rooms to the left of the hall each have an individual fireplace which are set back-to-back in the center. To the right are three rooms and two of these have back-to-back fireplaces. A broad veranda extends around the front and both ends of the house. The long rectangular windows, which are arranged in pairs, are single hung and each window contains 8 panes of glass. The roof is comprised of cedar shakes. This is the oldest extant frame house in Washington.

Both the Granary and the Factor's Houses have been restored. In excellent condition, they are open to visitors.

9. Reports and Studies:

Jesse S. Douglass, "Historic Sites Survey Report: Fort Nisqually, Washington" (N.P.S. Typescript, Aug. 1935) 6 pp; Historic American Bldg Survey: Corner Boston (1 sheet & 1 photo, 1936-37); Factor's House (7 sheets and 3 photos, 1936-37; Factor's House (7 sheets and 3 photos, 1936-37) Granary (2 sheets and 2 photos, 1936). WASH-37.



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1. STATE <b>Washington</b>	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. <b>Theme XV, Westward Expansion (The Fur Trade)</b>
3. NAME(S) OF SITE <b>Fort Misqually</b>	4. APPROX. ACREAGE
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) <b>Original location is at Dupont (U.S. Highway 99); present location is in Point Defiance Park, Tacoma.</b>	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) <b>Dupont Company (original site); City of Tacoma</b>	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

Fort Misqually was not a particularly outstanding trading post because of the number of furs acquired, but it did have a long and interesting history, and was the first settlement in the Puget Sound region. Established in 1833 by the Hudson's Bay Company, it had originally been intended as a farm and as a shipping point, because of its location on the south end of Puget Sound. For many years it was the center of shipping on the Sound.

The fort was built on the beach and later moved to higher ground, near present Du Pont, about 15 miles south of Tacoma. Dr. William Talmie, a surgeon and scientist, became Chief Factor in 1843, and moved the post again further inland. A part of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, its chief function became an agricultural one--raising crops and food to supply the Hudson's Bay Company posts in the Northwest. Because of poor soil, the harvests were never satisfactory and dairy and beef cattle production became the important operation. The post was not abandoned until 1869, some twenty-three years after the settlement of its Oregon boundary dispute.

The original site of the fort was acquired by the Dupont Company, and is now occupied by the company town of Dupont and the Dupont Powder Company Plant. The remains of Fort Misqually were moved to Point Defiance Park in Tacoma, and the fort reconstructed. There are about ten buildings within the high, stockade walls of the reconstructed fort.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)
- Johansen, D. O., "William Fraser Talmie of the Hudson's Bay Company," The Beaver (September, 1937), Mackay, Douglas, The Honourable Company (London, 1936).

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, ns, NPS study, IIABs, etc.)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION <b>Reconstruction</b>	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) <b>Park museum</b>	13. DATE OF VISIT <b>9/1959</b>
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <b>W. C. Everhart</b>	(Sgd.) William C. Everhart	15. TITLE <b>Historian</b>	16. DATE <b>10/1959</b>

\* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

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## NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE <b>Washington</b>	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. <b>XV - The Farming Frontier</b>
3. NAME(S) OF SITE <b>Fort Nisqually Farm Site</b>	4. APPROX. ACREAGE
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) <b>Pierce County, Dupont, 15 Mi. south of Tacoma on U.S. Highway 99</b>	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) <b>DuPont Company</b>	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant) <p>The Hudson's Bay Company contributed immeasurably to the future development of farming and ranching in the Pacific Northwest through the establishment in 1839 of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, a separate concern that was devoted exclusively to agriculture.</p> <p>On February 6, 1839, Sir George Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Company and Baron Wrangell of the Russian American Company signed an agreement which provided for the exclusive lease of the Russian American mainland in Alaska from the Portland Canal to Cape Spencer, for an annual rent of 2,000 land-otter skins. Redoubt St. Dionysius (soon renamed Fort Stikine and now Wrangell) was transferred to the British. The Hudson's Bay Company, on its part, also agreed to sell annually large quantities of wheat, flour, beef, and other food products from the company's farms on Columbia River to the Russians in Alaska at reasonable prices. This agreement, which continued in effect until 1867, had several results: This was one reason for the Russian withdrawal from their agricultural colony at Fort Ross, California in 1841. The agreement also led to the Hudson's Bay Company's formation of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, for the purpose of supplying the agreed upon agricultural products.</p> <p>The new company, organized in 1839 as a subsidiary corporation of the Hudson's Bay Company, chose as its area of operation a 167,040-acre tract that lay between the headwaters of the Cowlitz River and the southern tip of Puget Sound. Fort Nisqually, a fur trading post established by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1833, was selected as the headquarters and port of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company. Two Company farms were established, one at the Cowlitz River Landing in 1839, known as the Cowlitz Farm, and the second at Fort Nisqually in 1840, called the Nisqually Farm. Dr. William Fraser Tolmie, Chief Trader of Fort Nisqually, was chosen as the manager of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, and he was under the general supervision of Dr. John McLoughlin of Fort Vancouver. The two company farms were stocked by transferring to them nearly all the livestock and farm implements that had been formerly located at Fort Vancouver. (Continued next page)</p>	
8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)	

See Page Two.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, I.L.A.B.S., etc.) <b>Jesse S. Douglas "Historic Site Survey Report: Fort Nisqually, Washington" (N.P.S. Typescript, San Francisco, 1935).</b>			
10. PHOTOGRAPHS* <b>3205-07</b>	11. CONDITION <b>No remains.</b>	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) <b>Powder Plant</b>	13. DATE OF VISIT <b>Apr. 20, 1963</b>
ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>			
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <b>Charles W. Snell</b> <i>Charles W. Snell</i>	15. TITLE <b>Reg. Chief, Br. Historic Sites</b>	16. DATE <b>Dec. 19, 1963</b>	

\* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

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7. Continued:

The Nisqually Farm produced 1,000 bushels of wheat, 300 of oats, 50 of barley, 500 of peas, and 1,000 of potatoes in 1841. But experience soon showed that the Nisqually Farm was better adapted to grazing than farming. Nisqually therefore concentrated on cattle and sheep raising, while the emphasis at the Cowitz Farm was placed on farming. In 1841 Nisqually Farm had 4,530 sheep and 1,000 cattle.<sup>1</sup> By 1845 its herds had increased to 2,280 long-horned Spanish cattle and 5,872 sheep and in 1852 Nisqually Farm had 6,777 cattle and 6,837 sheep. By 1845 the company was also exporting some 10,000 pounds of wool, as well as hides, horns and tallow, to England.

In addition to its economic function, the British hoped that the agricultural development of Puget Sound area would encourage British immigration and thus keep American settlers out of this region and south of the Columbia River. While successful in the economic field, the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company failed to attract British settlers in considerable numbers and American pioneers (lumbermen and farmers) began invading the Puget Sound territory in large numbers in the early 1830's.

Nisqually Farm was worked by the British Company until 1869. In the final settlement made between the American and British governments in 1869, the Hudson's Bay Company was awarded \$200,000 as the value of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company's property.

The original site of Fort Nisqually and the Nisqually Farm, at Dupont, is marked by a small granite monument. There are no surface remains of the post. Two original buildings, the granary and factor's house, were still standing in 1934, when they were removed to Point Defiance Park in Tacoma. In their new location, the stockade, block-houses and eight other fort buildings have been reconstructed.

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<sup>1</sup>In 1840 the Hudson's Bay Company obtained a permit from the Mexican government to purchase 4,000 sheep and 2,000 long-horned cattle in California.

8. Bibliographical References: Hubert H. Bancroft, History of the Northwest Coast (2 vols., San Francisco, 1884) II, 524-525; 614-619; H.H. Bancroft, History of Washington Idaho and Montana, (San Francisco, 1890), 39-43; Oscar O. Winther, The Great Northwest

Washington

Fort Nisqually Farm Site

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8. Continued:

(New York, 1947), 75, 79-82; O. O. Winther, The Old Oregon Country (Stanford, 1950), 75-77; Dorothy O. Johansen and Charles M. Gates, Empire of the Columbia (New York, 1956), 161-63; The New Washington (American Guide Series) (Portland, 1950), 485-86; John S. Galbraith, The Hudson's Bay Company (Berkeley & Los Angeles, 1957), 192-217, 281.

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1. STATE <b>Washington</b>	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. <b>XV, The Fur Trade, The Farming Frontier</b>
3. NAME(S) OF SITE <b>Fort Misqually and Misqually Farm</b>	4. APPROX. ACREAGE <b>acres</b>
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) <b>**see below</b>	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) <b>Original site owned by DuPont Company; Relocated fort by City of Tacoma.</b>	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

Built by Archibald McDonald for the Hudson's Bay Company in 1833 as a fur-trading post and shipping center, Fort Misqually (1833-1869) was the first permanent white settlement on Puget Sound. It was a communication and supply post for the northern Hudson's Bay Company posts on the coast of British Columbia. These included Fort Langley (1827), Fort Simpson (1831), and Fort McLoughlin (1833).<sup>1</sup> Furs were shipped south from these posts to Fort Misqually from where they were taken overland to Fort Vancouver. Supplies were sent north from Fort Vancouver via this same route.

In 1840 Fort Misqually also became the headquarters of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, which was a subsidiary corporation of the Hudson's Bay Company. On February 6, 1839, Sir George Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Company and Baron Wrangell of the Russian American Company signed an agreement which provided for the leasing of the southern coastal strip of Southeastern Alaska to the British firm. The Hudson's Bay Company, on its part, agreed to furnish the Russian Alaska settlements with wheat, barley, peas, butter, beef, ham, and other supplies produced on its Columbia River farms.

<sup>1</sup>Also in Southeastern Alaska, Fort Stikine (1840), and Fort Taku (1840).

**\*\*5. Location. Original Site:** Pierce County, at DuPont, 15 miles south of Tacoma via U. S. Highway 99. The fort was situated on Sequalechow Creek, about half a mile inland from Puget Sound.

**Relocation of Original Buildings.** In Point Defiance Park, in the City of Tacoma.

**\*\*10. 3285-67 (1333-35, 1375)**

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

See page 6.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)

Jessie S. Douglas, "Historic Sites Survey Report: Fort Misqually, Washington (NPS typescript, San Francisco; Historical Building Survey: Factor's House and

10. PHOTOGRAPHY (1936-37) W. CONDITION ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (see above) See page 5.	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) See page 5.	13. DATE OF VISIT April 20, 1963
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) Charles W. Snell <i>Charles W. Snell</i>	15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE July 2, 1964

\*DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

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7. Continued

The Puget's Sound Agricultural Company was organized in 1839 for the purpose of supplying agreed-upon agricultural produce. The new company chose as its area of operation a 167,040-acre tract of land located between the headwaters of the Cowlitz River and the southern tip of Puget Sound. Dr. William Fraser Tolmie, Chief Factor of Fort Misqually, was chosen as the manager of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company. Two company farms were established, one at the Cowlitz River Landing in 1839, which was known as the Cowlitz Farm, and the second at Fort Misqually in 1840, which was called Misqually Farm. These two farms were stocked and equipped by transferring to them nearly all of the livestock and farm implements that had been formerly located at Fort Vancouver.

The American explorer Charles Wilkes visited Fort Misqually in May, 1841, and described the setting:

"The anchorage off Misqually is very contracted, in consequence of the rapid shelving of the bank, that soon drops off into deep water. The shore rises abruptly, to a height of about 200 feet, and on the top of the ascent is an extended plain, covered with pine, oak, and ash trees, scattered here and there so as to form a parklike scene. The hillside is mounted by a well-constructed road, of easy ascent. From the summit of the road the view is beautiful, over the sound and its many islands, with Mount Olympus covered with snow for a background. Fort Misqually, with its outbuildings and enclosures, stands back about half a mile from the edge of the tableland . . ."

Of the fort, he noted:

"It is constructed of pickets, enclosing a space about 200 feet square, with four-corner bastions. Within this enclosure are the agents' stores, and about half a dozen houses, built of logs, and roofed with bark. This fort was considered quite large when it was first established, but since it has become an agricultural post as well as a trading one, it is found to be too small. Its locality is also ill-chosen, on account of the difficulty of obtaining water, which has to be brought from a distance of nearly a mile . . ."

Nearby were to be seen fine fields of grain, large barns and sheepfolds, agricultural implements, and workmen engaged in the various employments of husbandry. In connection with the Company's establishment at Misqually, they have a large dairy, several hundred head of cattle, and among them 70 milch cows, which yield a large supply of butter and cheese: they have also large crops of wheat, peas, and oats, and were preparing the ground for potatoes. These operations are conducted by a farmer and dairyman, brought from England expressly

7. Continued

to superintend these affairs. A few Indians are engaged in attending the flocks, and the Company's servants are almost exclusively employed as labourers. . . ."<sup>1</sup>

Of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company's Farm, Wilkes wrote:

"The Company have as yet few fields enclosed, nor is it necessary that they should have, so long as the cattle are watched and penned in at night. The practice of penning is adopted, not only to protect the animals from wolves, but to have the manure and apply it to a useful purpose. These pens are about half an acre in size, and are enclosed with our Virginia fences, made of pine rails. They are moved once a week, which in the course of the year, gives a fertilizing effect to a large piece of ground; and all those portions of it have been poor and barren are thus brought readily, and at little expense or laboring, under cultivation."

Concluding, he observed that about 200 acres, planted with wheat, were then under cultivation.<sup>2</sup>

The Misqually Farm produced 1,000 bushels of wheat, 300 of Oats, 50 of barley, 500 of peas, and 1,000 of potatoes in 1841. But experience soon demonstrated that the Misqually Farm was better adapted for grazing than farming. Misqually therefore concentrated on raising cattle and sheep, while Cowitz Farm was the center of farming activities.

By 1845 Fort Misqually's herds included 2,280 cattle and 5,872 sheep. Some 10,000 pounds of wool, as well as hides, horns, and tallow, were exported to England that year. In 1852 Misqually Farm had 6,777 cattle and 6,837 sheep.

In an effort to counterbalance American emigration to the Oregon Country south of the Columbia River, ~~the~~ Hudson's Bay Company attempted a colonization scheme of its own at Fort Misqually in 1841. Twenty-one families--116 men, women and children <sup>were</sup> imported from the Red River Settlement for this purpose. Fourteen families, or 77 persons, were

<sup>1</sup>Charles Wilkes, Narrative of the Exploring Expedition, (5 vols., Philadelphia, 1845) IV, 305-07.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., IV, 414.

7. Continued.

settled at Fort Nisqually where they farmed on halves for the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company; the remainder were placed at Cowlitz Farms. The light, sandy soil of Nisqually, however, did not produce good crops and the company also refused to grant the settlers title to the land. By the fall of 1843, all of the families at Fort Nisqually had left for the free and fertile land of the Willamette River, located south of the Columbia River. This British effort at colonisation thus ended in failure.

The first American settlers arrived in the vicinity of Fort Nisqually in October, 1845, establishing their farms at Tumwater. Soon the Americans began encroaching on Hudson's Bay Company land and a long-standing dispute arose between the British and Americans. Fort Nisqually and its farms, however, were occupied by the Hudson's Bay Company until 1869, when the final settlement was signed by the American and British governments. Under this agreement, the Hudson's Bay Company was awarded \$200,000 as the value of the Puget's Sound Agricultural property and \$450,000 for the Hudson's Bay Company's other possessory rights in the Oregon Country.

The original site of Fort Nisqually and Nisqually Farm, located at Dupont, is marked by a small granite monument. There are no surface remains left of the fort. However, two original log buildings of the Fort, the Factor's House and Granary, were still standing in 1934, when they were removed to Point Defiance Park in the City of Tacoma. These two buildings, the only surviving original examples of Hudson's Bay Company buildings still standing in the United States, have been restored in Point Defiance Park. The stockade, two block-houses, and eight other buildings have been reconstructed around the two original structures at the new site.

The one-story log granary, erected in 1843, is the oldest surviving historic structure in the State of Washington.

8. Bibliographical References:

Dorothy O. Johansen, "William Fraser Tolmie of the Hudson's Bay Company," The Beaver (September, 1937); Douglas Mackay, The Honourable Company, (London, 1936); Hubert H. Bancroft, History of the Northwest Coast (2 vols., San Francisco, 1884), II, 524-525, 614, 619; H. H. Bancroft, History of Washington, Idaho and Montana (San Francisco, 1890), 39-43; Oscar O. Winther, The Great Northwest (New York, 1947), 75, 79-82; O. O. Winther, The Old Oregon Country (Stanford, 1950), 75-77; Dorothy O. Johansen and Charles M. Gates, Empire of the Columbia (New York, 1957), 161-163, John S. Galbraith, The Hudson's Bay Company as an Imperial Factor (Berkeley, 1957), 192-217, 281; Paul C. Phillips, The Fur Trade (2 vols., Norman, 1961) II, 432, 438-439;



7. Continued:

Charles Wilkes, Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition During the Years 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, (5 vols., Philadelphia, 1845), IV 305-08, 414, 417.

11. No surface remains at original site; original buildings moved.

12. Original site--Powder Plant; new site, City Park.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

2nd Revision

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE <b>Washington</b>	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. <b>XV - Farming Frontier; Fur Trade</b>	
3. NAME(S) OF SITE <b>Fort Nisqually Farm</b>		4. APPROX. ACREAGE <b>600 acres</b>
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) <b>Original Site: Pierce County, at DuPont, 15 miles south of Tacoma via U. S. Highway 99. The fort was situated on Squallish Creek, about half a mile inland from Puget Sound.</b>		
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also Administrator if different from owner) <b>DuPont Company</b>		
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)		

The Hudson's Bay Company contributed immeasurably to the future development of farming and ranching in the Pacific Northwest through the establishment in 1839 of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, a separate concern that was devoted exclusively to agriculture.

Built by Archibald McDonald for the Hudson's Bay Company in 1833 as a fur-trading post and shipping center, Fort Nisqually (1833-1869) was the first permanent white settlement on Puget Sound. It was a communication and supply post for the northern Hudson's Bay Company posts on the coast of British Columbia.

In 1840 Fort Nisqually also became the headquarters of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, which was a subsidiary corporation of the Hudson's Bay Company. On February 6, 1839, Sir George Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Company and Baron Wrangell of the Russian American Company signed an agreement which provided for the leasing of the southern coastal strip of Southeastern Alaska to the British firm. The Hudson's Bay Company, on its part, agreed to furnish the Russian Alaska settlements with wheat, barley, peas, butter, beef, ham, and other supplies produced on its Columbia River farms.

The Puget's Sound Agricultural Company was organized in 1839 for the purpose of supplying agreed-upon agricultural produce. The new company chose as its area of operation a 167,040-acre tract of land located between the headwaters of the Cowlitz River and the southern tip of Puget Sound. Dr. William Fraser Tolmie, Chief Factor of Fort Nisqually, was chosen as the manager of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company. Two company farms were established, one at the Cowlitz River Landing in 1839, which was known as the

(Continued)

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

See page 4.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)

Jesse S. Douglas, "Historic Site Survey Report: Fort Nisqually, Washington," (NPS Typescript, San Francisco, 1935).

10. PHOTOGRAPHS * <b>3205-07</b> ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION <b>No remains at Old site Powder Plant</b>	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) <b></b>	13. DATE OF VISIT <b>Apr. 20, 1963</b>
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <b>Charles W. Snell</b>	15. TITLE <b>Historian</b>	16. DATE <b>Sept. 22, 1964</b>	

\* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

## 7. Continued:

Cowlitz Farm, and the second at Fort Nisqually in 1840, which was called Nisqually Farm. These two farms were stocked and equipped by transferring to them nearly all of the livestock and farm implements that had been formerly located at Fort Vancouver.

The American explorer Charles Wilkes visited Fort Nisqually in May, 1841, and reported:

"It is constructed of pickets, enclosing a space about 200 feet square, with four-corner bastions. Within this enclosure are the agents' stores, and about half a dozen houses, built of logs, and roofed with bark. This fort was considered quite large when it was first established, but since it has become an agricultural post as well as a trading one, it is found to be too small. . .

Nearby were to be seen fine fields of grain, large barns and sheepfolds, agricultural implements, and workmen engaged in the various employments of husbandry. In connexion with the Company's establishment at Nisqually, they have a large dairy, several hundred head of cattle, and among them 70 milch cows, which yield a large supply of butter and cheese: they have also large crops of wheat, peas, and oats, and were preparing the ground for potatoes. These operations are conducted by a farmer and dairyman, brought from England expressly to superintend these affairs. A few Indians are engaged in attending the flocks, and the Company's servants are almost exclusively employed as labourers. . ."<sup>1</sup>

Of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company's Farm, Wilkes wrote:

"The Company have as yet few fields enclosed, nor is it necessary that they should have, so long as the cattle are watched and penned in at night. The practice of penning is adopted, not only to protect the animals from wolves, but to save the manure and apply it to a useful purpose. These pens are about half an acre in size, and are enclosed with our Virginia fences, made of pine rails. They are moved once a week, which in the course of the year, gives a fertilizing effect to a large piece of ground; and all those portions of it that have been poor and barren are thus brought readily, and at little expense or laboring, under cultivation."

Concluding, he observed that about 200 acres, planted with wheat, were then under cultivation.<sup>2</sup>

## 7. Continued:

The Nisqually Farm produced 1,000 bushels of wheat, 300 of oats, 50 of barley, 500 of peas, and 1,000 of potatoes in 1841. But experience soon demonstrated that the Nisqually Farm was better adapted for grazing than farming. Nisqually therefore concentrated on raising cattle and sheep, while Cowlitz Farm was the center of farming activities.

By 1845 Fort Nisqually's herds included 2,280 cattle and 5,872 sheep. Some 10,000 pounds of wool, as well as hides, horns, and tallow, were exported to England that year. In 1852 Nisqually Farm had 6,777 cattle and 6,837 sheep.

In an effort to counterbalance American emigration to the Oregon Country south of the Columbia River, the Hudson's Bay Company attempted a colonization scheme of its own at Fort Nisqually in 1841. Twenty-one families--116 men, women and children were imported from the Red River Settlement for this purpose. Fourteen families, or 77 persons, were settled at Fort Nisqually where they farmed on halves for the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company; the remainder were placed at Cowlitz Farms. The light, sandy soil of Nisqually, however, did not produce good crops and the company also refused to grant the settlers title to the land. By the fall of 1843, all of the families at Fort Nisqually had left for the free and fertile land of the Willamette River, located south of the Columbia River. This British effort at colonization thus ended in failure.

The first American settlers arrived in the vicinity of Fort Nisqually in October, 1845, establishing their farms at Tumwater. Soon the Americans began encroaching on Hudson's Bay Company land and a long-standing dispute arose between the British and Americans. Fort Nisqually and its farms, however, were occupied by the Hudson's Bay Company until 1869, when the final settlement was signed by the American and British governments. Under this agreement, the Hudson's Bay Company was awarded \$200,000 as the value of the Puget's Sound Agricultural property and \$450,000 for the Hudson's Bay Company's other possessory rights in the Oregon Country.

The original site of Fort Nisqually and Nisqually Farm, located at Dupont, is marked by a small granite monument. There are no surface remains left of the fort. However, two original log buildings of the fort, the Factor's House and Granary, were still standing in 1934, when they were removed to Point Defiance Park in the City of Tacoma. These two buildings, the only surviving original examples of Hudson's Bay Company buildings still standing in the United States, have been restored in Point Defiance Park. The stockade, two blockhouses, and eight other buildings have been reconstructed around the two original structures at the new site.

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7. Continued:

The one-story log Granary, erected in 1843, is the oldest surviving historic structure in the State of Washington.

## 8. Bibliographical References.

Dorothy O. Johansen, "William Fraser Tolmie of the Hudson's Bay Company", The Beaver (September, 1937) Douglas Mackay, The Honourable Company (London, 1936); Hubert H. Bancroft, History of the Northwest Coast (2 vols., San Francisco, 1884) II, 524-525, 614, 619; H. H. Bancroft, History of Washington, Idaho, and Montana (San Francisco, 1890), 39-43; Oscar O. Winther, The Great Northwest (New York, 1947), 75, 79-82; O. O. Winther, The Old Oregon Country (Stanford, 1950), 75-77; Dorothy O. Johansen and Charles M. Gates, Empire of the Columbia (New York, 1957), 161-163; John S. Galbraith, The Hudson's Bay Company as an Imperial Factor (Berkeley, 1957), 192-217, 281; Paul C. Phillips, The Fur Trade (2 vols., Norman, 1961) II, 432, 438-39; The New Washington (American Guide Series) (Portland, 1950), 485-86.

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<sup>1</sup>Charles Wilkes, Narrative of the Exploring Expedition, (5 vols., Philadelphia, 1845) IV, 305-07.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., IV, 414.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Fort Nisqually Granary, Tacoma, Washington

Fort Nisqually was built in 1833 by Archibald McDonald on Puget Sound for the Hudson's Bay Company to serve as a communication and supply center for the Company's northern posts on the coast of British Columbia. In addition, in 1840, Fort Nisqually became the headquarters of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, a subsidiary corporation of the Hudson's Bay Company. It was then rebuilt and enlarged. Only two original buildings of the Fort, the Granary and Factor's House were still standing in 1934.

The Granary, built in 1843, is a surviving original example of the Hudson's Bay Company's "post-in-the-sill" or Canadian method of log construction. This type of log construction was widely used by fur traders, missionaries, and settlers in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington prior to 1846. In this method of construction a sill of heavy timbers was laid down for the base of the proposed log structure. The ends of these timbers were usually fastened together at the corners by interlocking joints. The sill sometimes rested directly on the ground but more often, as was the case with the present granary, was elevated by wooden blocks or piles. At the corners and at convenient intervals along the sill, usually at every 6 to 10 feet, heavy upright posts were planted by means of mortises. These uprights were grooved, and into their grooves were slid the tenoned ends of horizontally-lying logs or timbers which filled the empty spaces between the uprights and formed the wall.

In the granary the heavy fir logs were adzed to timbers 10 by 14 inches square with tenons on the ends. The tenons were mortised into the grooves in the heavy upright corner posts and pinned with oak dowels. Oak pegs three feet long were also driven down through holes bored in the horizontal timbers, thus making a very strong construction. The building's gabled roof is covered by hand-split cedar shakes. Batten boards comprised the siding under the eaves at the ends and the six windows have solid batten board shutters. The round arch entrance has solid double batten doors. Inside the structure are five grain bins which are arranged around the sides of the building.

The two original buildings of the fort, the Granary and Factor's House, were removed in 1934 from the original site and reerected in Point Defiance Park at Tacoma. The rest of the fort, including the stockade, two blockhouses, and 8 other buildings, were reconstructed around the two original structures at the new site. Both the Granary and the Factor's House have been restored. In excellent condition, they are open to visitors.

\* \* \* \* \*

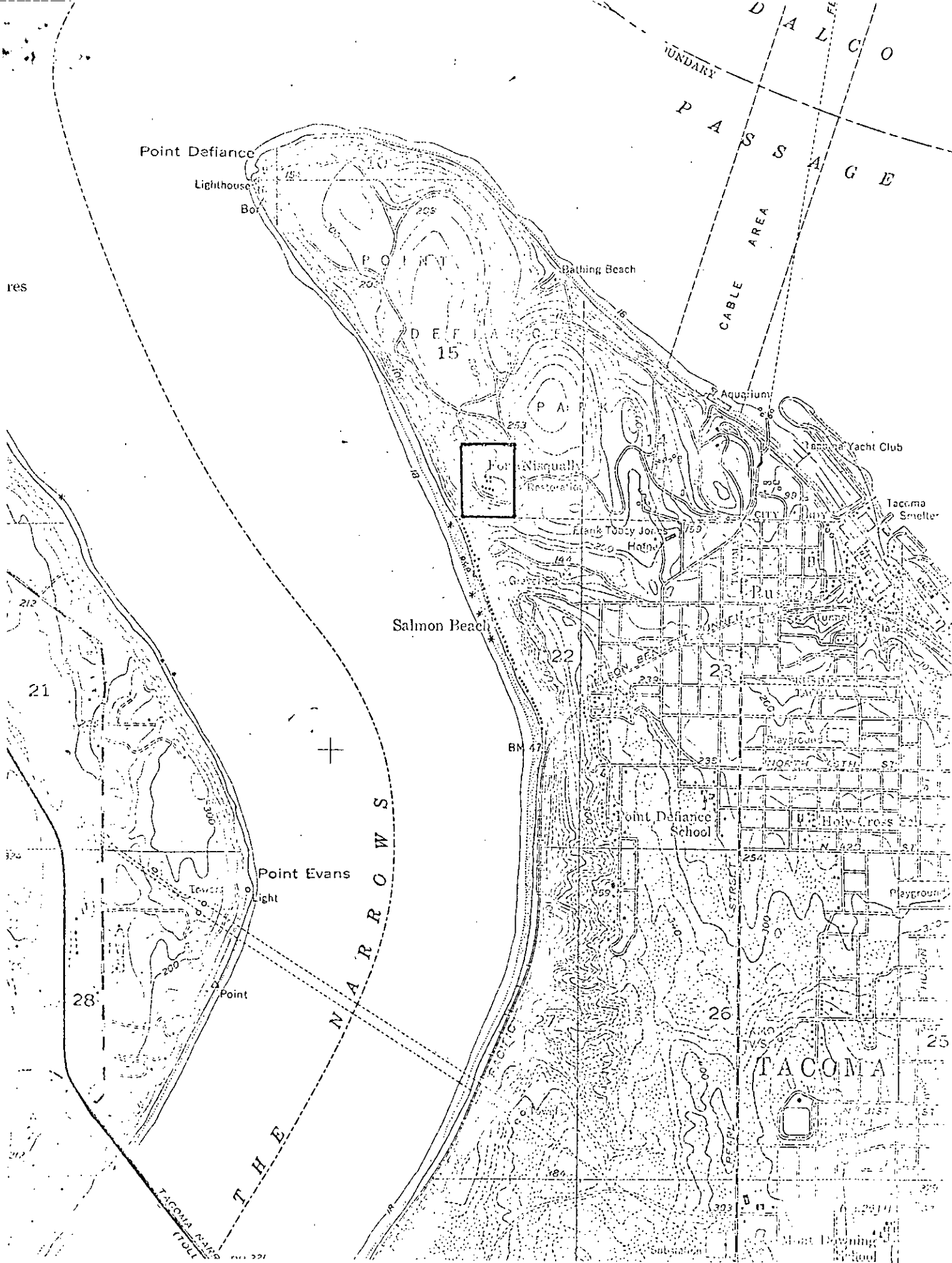
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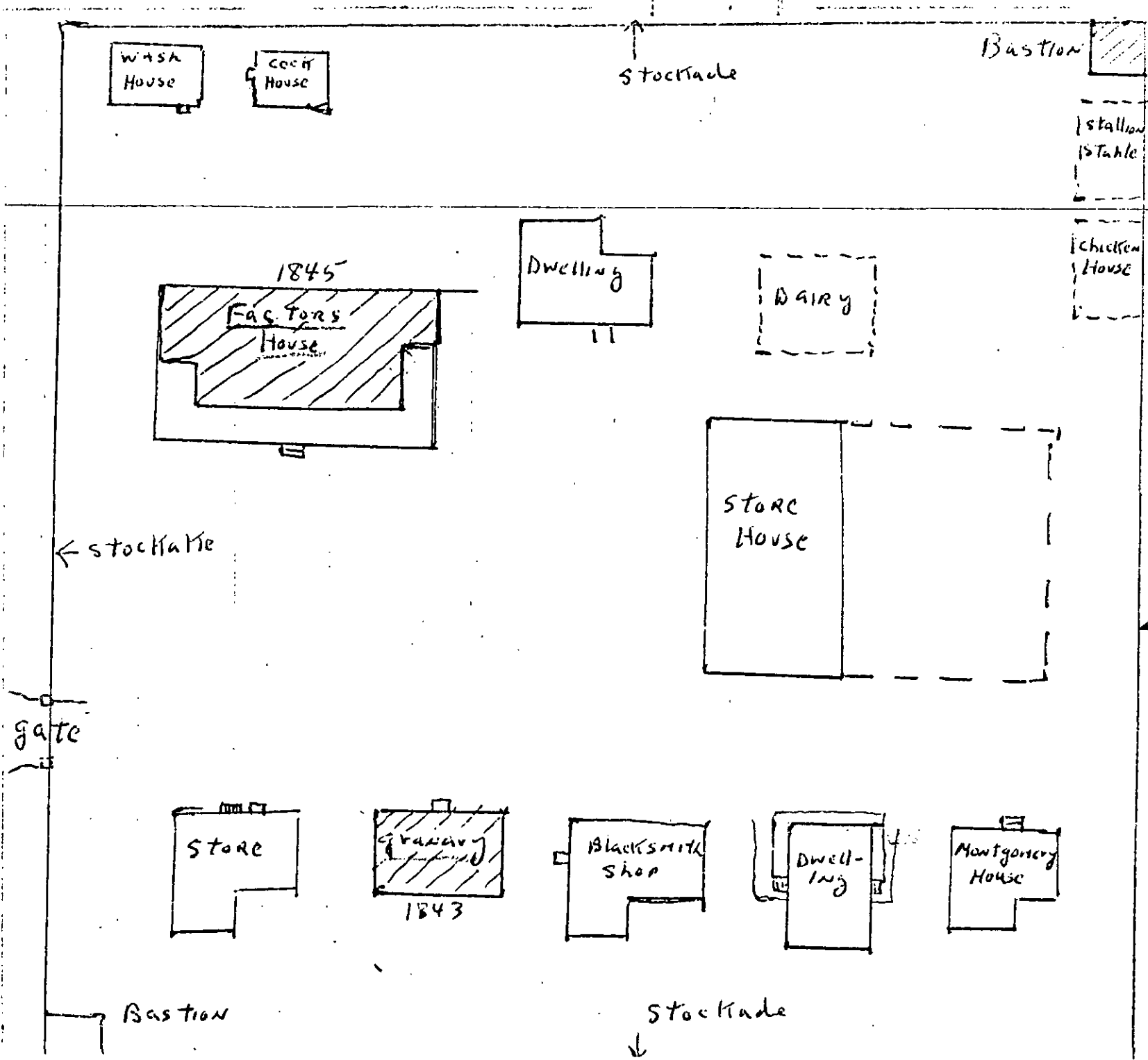
FORT NISQUALLY GRANARY, PIERCE COUNTY,  
TACOMA, WASHINGTON

Boundaries of the Historic Site:

Approximately 24.79 acres of land, including the Fort Nisqually Granary, Factor's House, and reconstructed buildings of the fort, starting at the southwest corner at latitude  $47^{\circ}18' 07''$  N. - longitude  $122^{\circ}32' 00''$  W., proceeding north about 1200 feet to the northwest corner at lat.  $47^{\circ}18' 19''$  N. - long.  $122^{\circ}32' 00''$  W., continuing east about 900 feet to the northeast corner at lat.  $47^{\circ}18'19''$  N. - long.  $122^{\circ}31' 41''$  W., going south about 1200 feet to the southeast corner at lat.  $47^{\circ}18' 07''$  N. - long.  $122^{\circ}31' 41''$  W., then returning west about 900 feet to the beginning, the southwest corner. Precise boundaries, as described above, are recorded in red on a copy of U.S. Geological Survey Map: Gig Harbor Quadrangle, Washington, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic), 1959, on file with the Branch of Historical Surveys, Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service.





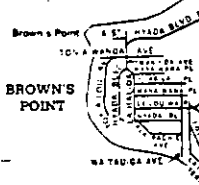


Plan  
Fort Nisqually  
Tacoma, Wash

0 8 16 32  
Scale

1/32" = 1'0"  
N  
↑

STREET MAP OF  
**TACOMA**  
Prepared for  
STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA  
SCALE OF MILES  
0 1/4 1/2  
ONE INCH EQUALS APPROXIMATELY EIGHT TENTHS MILE  
Proposed Streets  
Copyright 1938 By The H.M. GOLDSHA COMPANY Chicago-San Jose  
Lithographed in U.S.A.



For ready reference, this map shows house numbers in red figures.

Area covered by Downtown Tacoma on reverse side

# NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

## PROPERTY NAME

Page 1

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

### 1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Granary at Fort Nisqually

Other Name/Site Number: New Granary at Fort Nisqually

### 2. LOCATION

**DRAFT**

Street & Number: Point Defiance Park

City/Town: Tacoma

State: WA County: Pierce Code: 053 Zip Code: 98407

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

#### Ownership of Property

Private: \_\_\_\_\_  
Public-Local: X \_\_\_\_\_  
Public-State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Public-Federal: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Category of Property

Building(s): X \_\_\_\_\_  
District: \_\_\_\_\_  
Site: \_\_\_\_\_  
Structure: \_\_\_\_\_  
Object: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Number of Resources within Property

##### Contributing

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

##### Noncontributing

\_\_\_\_\_ buildings  
\_\_\_\_\_ sites  
\_\_\_\_\_ structures  
\_\_\_\_\_ objects  
\_\_\_\_\_ Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register:

1

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing:

**PROPERTY NAME**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

**Page 2**

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Certifying Official\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Commenting or Other Official\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal Agency and Bureau**5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_\_ Entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Determined eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Determined not eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**PROPERTY NAME**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

**Page 3**

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

Historic: Agriculture Sub: Storage

Current: Recreation and Culture Sub: Museum

**7. DESCRIPTION**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Other (Post-in-sill, Red River Frame,  
Canadian Style)**MATERIALS:**

Foundation: Concrete (original was wood)

Walls: Wood

Roof: Wood

Other:

**PROPERTY NAME**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

**Page 4**

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.**

The Hudson's Bay Company forts constructed in the Pacific Northwest and the buildings within these forts followed a basic regular company plan and were constructed in an architectural style known as the "post-in-sill" (Red River Frame, Canadian) style. The Granary is the only surviving building in the United States that is an example of this style of architecture, and is the oldest surviving structure in the state of Washington.

The "post-in-sill" style of architecture consists of a sill of heavy timbers supported above ground by wood blocking and used as a base for a log structure. The ends of the timbers were usually fastened together at the corners by interlocking joints. Upright posts, each with two grooved channels running its entire length, are placed about every 10 feet along the sill and mortised into a sill beam. The tenoned ends of horizontally lying logs slide into grooves carved into the upright posts. The walls are braced with ties, a top sill is applied when the walls are completed, and upon this a roof is constructed.<sup>1</sup> See Figure No. 1 (plan of the Granary, illustrating post-in-sill construction design).<sup>2</sup>

The Granary is a one-story, one-room, log constructed building, 20 feet by 31 feet. The building's gabled roof is covered with cedar shingles. The original shingles were hand-split. Batten boards comprise the siding under the eaves at each end.

The Granary has six windows, two each on the east and west sides (front and back), and one each on the north and south sides. The windows have standard 7" x 9" panes, with three-over-three panes per sash. All six windows are shuttered and trimmed in Spanish brown paint with the sash painted white.<sup>3</sup> There is one set of double doors centered on its east (front) elevation. The doorway opens inward and is framed by an arched header beam six-and-one-half feet tall at the center. The door trim is also painted in Spanish brown. The floor is tongued-and-groove boards applied over the primary floor. See Figure No. 2 (granary elevations).<sup>4</sup>

The original design of Fort Nisqually followed the basic plan of Hudson Bay Company forts. A tall stockade comprised of upright

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<sup>1</sup>Steven A. Anderson, Curator of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, Washington, The Physical Structure of Fort Nisqually, A Preliminary Study of the Structural Development of a Hudson's Bay Company Site 1843-1859 (Tacoma, Washington: Metropolitan Park District, March 1988), pp. 9-10; See also National Historic Landmark Nomination for Fort Nisqually Granary and Factor's House (listed 4/15/70, #70000647), Preservation Assistance Division, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

<sup>2</sup>Anderson, Physical Structure of Fort Nisqually, p. 215.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 92.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 216.

**PROPERTY NAME****Page 5**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

logs enclosed a rectangular area. At the diagonal opposite corners of the wall were situated a two-story log blockhouse, which provided flanking fire along the stockade in case of attack. Within the palisade were situated the commanding officer's house, barracks and dwellings for trappers and their families, workshops, trading house, warehouses, storage facilities, and later dwellings for agricultural laborers. All were constructed of logs.<sup>5</sup>

The Granary has been restored and reconstructed, and moved several times. In 1832 John McLoughlin, Chief Factor at Fort Vancouver, supervised the construction of temporary storehouses along the shores of Puget Sound just north of the Nisqually River.<sup>6</sup> In the spring of 1833 these temporary structures were torn down and the building material used for buildings in a new enclosed fortification one-half mile from the beach and given the name Nisqually. In September a 30 foot by 20 foot storehouse was constructed.<sup>7</sup> In the spring of 1835 a granary, dairy, cow shed and pig sty were built.<sup>8</sup> In 1843 Chief Trader William Tolmie had the buildings disassembled, and moved to a second site, one mile inland, near the present town of Dupont. This location gave the newly palisaded and reconstructed Fort Nisqually access to a closer water supply, as well as more open acreage for increasing farming and livestock production. See Figure No. 3 (Puget Sounds Agricultural Land Claim at Fort Nisqually, 1852).<sup>9</sup> New residences, storage facilities, barns and other buildings were reconstructed, partially from material from the original site. See Figure No. 4 (Fort Nisqually Developmental Site Plan, 1843-1859).<sup>10</sup> The Fort's journals do not specifically refer to a granary, but indicate the existence of a grain storage facility used for warehousing Puget

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<sup>5</sup>See 1970 National Register Nomination.

<sup>6</sup>Kathry Marie Troxel, "Fort Nisqually and the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, (a dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the Department of History Graduate School, Indiana University, October, 1950) p. 30; "A Brief History of Fort Nisqually." This is an information sheet compiled by the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma and distributed at the Fort Nisqually Museum site, September 1991. One side is a history of Fort Nisqually. The reverse side is a developmental site plan of Fort Nisqually 1843-1859, with descriptions of each of the buildings located within the site.

<sup>7</sup>Troxel, Fort Nisqually and the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, p. 34.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid. pp. 66,82.

<sup>9</sup>Map located at the Washington State Library, Olympia, Washington.

<sup>10</sup>Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, "A Brief History of Fort Nisqually."



**PROPERTY NAME****Page 6**

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Sound Agricultural Company grain and produce.<sup>11</sup> Also, in an 1847 ground plan drawn by William F. Tolmie, there is no structure listed as "granary." See Figure No. 5, (1847 Ground Plan of William Fraser Tolmie).<sup>12</sup> It was not until 1850 that a specific reference was made to the "old granary," which was pulled down and a new granary constructed. Given the Hudson's Bay Company practice of building reuse, it is likely that some of the old granary was salvaged to create the new.<sup>13</sup> The primary buildings and the new granary were built by Jean Baptiste Chaulifoux, Jean Baptiste Jolibois, and Louis Trudelle, assisted by laborers and Indians.<sup>14</sup> By early January 1851 the New Granary was completely floored and ready for use as a grain storage facility. It was located along the western range of the stockade, flanked on each side by storehouses.<sup>15</sup> This is the present relative location of the granary within Fort Nisqually in the reconstructed site at Point Defiance Park in Tacoma. The Granary received a new floor in 1852. It is not known whether this second flooring was applied over the first, or if the first was removed before application.<sup>16</sup> Photographs confirm that the building remained at this site until at least 1884.<sup>17</sup>

In September, 1869, by treaty between the United States and Great Britain, the Hudson's Bay Company transferred all its rights and claims to the United States. The Company's livestock and moveable property were transported to Canada. Edward Higgins remained behind, and after becoming a naturalized American citizen laid claim to the fort and the surrounding territory.<sup>18</sup> He used the Granary for his family's private grain storage.<sup>19</sup> His second son lived at Fort Nisqually until 1906.<sup>20</sup> In the late 1890s the Granary was moved to the east side of the fort and was used as a

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<sup>11</sup>Anderson, The Physical Structure of Fort Nisqually, p. 89.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid., p. 206.

<sup>13</sup>Journal, 1 August 1850, cited by Anderson, The Physical Structure of Fort Nisqually, p. 90.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid.

<sup>15</sup>Anderson, The Physical Structure of Fort Nisqually, p. 90.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid. p. 93.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid., p. 90.

<sup>18</sup>Troxel, Fort Nisqually and the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, p. 182; "The Puget Sound Agricultural Company," Landmarks Vol. IV, No. 4, p. 20.

<sup>19</sup>Roy C. Hull, "Old DuPont Landmarks Recall Days of Pioneer," Tacoma Sunday Ledger, 8 May 1921, cited by Anderson, The Physical Structure of Fort Nisqually, p. 91.

<sup>20</sup>Anderson, The Physical Structure of Fort Nisqually, p. 90.

**PROPERTY NAME**

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chicken house.<sup>21</sup> See Figure No. 6 (photograph of the Granary ca. 1895). In 1906 the fort was sold to the DuPont Powder Company. By this time only the Granary and the factor's house remained.<sup>22</sup> The Granary remained in its location and was undisturbed by the temporary company town that DuPont building on the site.

In 1933 a group of Tacoma businessmen known as the Young Men's Business Club decided to relocate the Granary and the Factor's House from the Dupont site to Tacoma as a tourist attraction. Measured drawings were prepared for the Granary and the building was designated a National Historic Landmark.<sup>23</sup> In January, 1934, the Young Men's Business Club, with assistance from the Washington Employment Relief Administration, the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and other federally subsidized work relief programs, disassembled the Granary and moved it to a site at Point Defiance Park. See Figure No. 7 (1953 photograph of the newly constructed site at Point Defiance Park).<sup>24</sup> Except for the roof shingles, a pair of shutter hinges, the sills and a few wall timbers, the entire building is original material.<sup>25</sup> The completion of the Fort by the Works Progress Administration was documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1937 and represents the composition of buildings currently at Fort Nisqually in Point Defiance Park. In 1970 the Granary was placed on the National Register.<sup>26</sup> Since 1937 the Fort has been under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma.<sup>27</sup>

Following 1937 some alterations were made on the Granary. In the mid-1940s the Works Progress Administration installed windows on the west elevation which were not of standard Hudson's Bay Company framing or pane size. In addition, due to deterioration, sill beams were replaced and an inappropriate series of pier blocks were installed. In the mid 1960s inappropriate repair work of the

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<sup>21</sup>Ibid. p. 91.

<sup>22</sup>Ibid., p. 214.

<sup>23</sup>Patricia Sias, "A Visit to Fort Nisqually," Landmarks, Winter 1982, p. 18; "The Restoration of the Granary at Fort Nisqually." This is a study written by the Park District describing the planning of the restoration of the Granary, in seven phases, and the projected costs, covering the period from October 1983 to July 1984.

<sup>24</sup>"County's Oldest Settlement," Tacoma News Tribune, 7 April 1953, sec. C, p. 2.

<sup>25</sup>"The Restoration of the Granary at Fort Nisqually," Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma.

<sup>26</sup>"Granary at Nisqually Now Historic Landmark," Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 17 May 1971, sec. S, p. 5.

<sup>27</sup>"The Restoration of the Granary at Fort Nisqually," Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma.

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Granary had led to serious deterioration of the building by the early 1980s.<sup>28</sup>

In the fall of 1983 restoration of the Granary began with a grant from the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation matched by funds and services from the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma. Research on the buildings was conducted by Steve Anderson, Curator of the Fort Nisqually Museum, Patty Sias, Historic Preservation Office for the City of Tacoma; Gary Reese, Librarian for the Tacoma Public Library, and Doreen Beard, Registrar for Fort Nisqually Museum.<sup>29</sup> The entire building was dismantled in pieces. The foundation was replaced with material that more accurately replicated the original construction. Components that were deteriorated were treated. Due to building code requirements, the original wooden posts were replicated with ones of concrete, shaped and stained to replicate wood. The deteriorated sill beams were replaced with wood from trees adjacent to the site using the original construction principle of clear-span beams, instead of sectioned beams, which had been installed in the 1960s repair. The window on the west wall was reinstalled using glazed casement windows of the original building. The window had probably been removed in the 1960s. New cedar shakes match the dimension of the earlier shakes. The new windows were manufactured to match the nine pane module design of the original building. Shutters of the original design were installed and a door was constructed of cedar to match earlier photographs.<sup>30</sup> The restoration was completed in 1984.

The Granary is presently located within the walls of a reconstructed Fort Nisqually at Point Defiance Park in Tacoma, Washington, overlooking the Narrows between the Hale Passage and the Dalco Passage. The Granary was originally used for the storage of grain for the Hudson Bay Company and the Puget Sound Agricultural Company. It is presently part of the Fort Nisqually Historic site which has been reconstructed for the purpose of preservation and education.

Although the Granary has been moved from its original site, disassembled twice, though reassembled with the original material, except for material which makes it structurally more sound and which reflects more accurately the original architectural design, the building is an important national landmark because of its importance as the only surviving original example in the United States of the Hudson's Bay Company's "posts-in-the-sill" method of log construction.

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<sup>28</sup>Ibid.

<sup>29</sup>Ibid.

<sup>30</sup>Ibid.

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AttachmentsMaps

Geological Survey Map, Gig Harbor Quadrangle

Photographs (September, 1991)

- No. 1 - Entrance to Fort Nisqually. Granary is located behind "Store No. 3" on right.
- No. 2 - View of southwest corner of Fort Nisqually showing southwest bastion. Middle roof on left is the Granary.
- No. 3 - View towards southwest. Granary is building in middle, flanked by reconstructed stores on each side.
- No. 4 - North (front) elevation of Granary. Fort stockade can be seen behind the building.
- No. 5 - North and east elevation of Granary.
- No. 6 - South (rear) and east elevations of Granary.
- No. 7 - West elevation and portion of south elevation of Granary. Fence in background surrounds the Chief Factor's House.
- No. 8 - Detail of door.
- No. 9 - Detail of window.
- No. 10 - Detail of shingles and gabled roof.
- No. 11 - Detail of northeast corner.
- No. 12 - Floor of Granary.
- No. 13 - West side of interior of Granary.
- No. 14 - View of interior wall. Notice top sill.
- No. 15 - Detail of foundation. Notice concrete replacement of wood blocks, and timber sills.

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Illustrations

Figure No. 1 - Plan of Granary illustrating the post-in-sill construction design.

Figure No. 2 - Granary elevations.

Figure No. 3 - Pugets Sound Agricultural Land Claim at Fort Nisqually, 1852.

Figure No. 4 - Fort Nisqually Developmental Site Plan, 1843-1859.

Figure No. 5 - Ground plan of Fort Nisqually drawn by William Fraser Tolmie, 1847

Figure No. 6 - Photograph of the Granary around 1895.

Figure No. 7 - 1953 Photograph of reconstructed Fort Nisqually at the Point Defiance Park Site, Tacoma, Washington.

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**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally: X Statewide:      Locally: X

Applicable National  
Register Criteria:

A X B      C X D     

Criteria Considerations  
(Exceptions):

A      B X C      D      E X F      G     

NHL Criteria: 1, 4

NHL Theme(s): V. Political and Military Affairs, 1783-1860  
H. Manifest Destiny, 1844-1859

X. Westward Expansion of the British Colonies and the United States, 1763-1898

B. The Fur Trade

6. Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwest Coast  
Fur Trade

F. The Farmer's Frontier (Hudson's Bay Agricultural  
Settlements in the Puget Sound)

XVI. Architecture (Hudson's Bay Company Post-In-Sill)

Areas of Significance:

Architecture  
Exploration/Settlement  
Politics/Government

Period(s) of Significance:

1818-1869

Significant Dates:

1818 - Convention of 1818 (Joint Occupancy of  
the "Oregon Country" by the United  
States and Great Britain)  
1833 - Foundation of Fort Nisqually  
1839 - Establishment of Puget Sound  
Agricultural Company  
1843 - Fort Nisqually moved to the site where  
the original (old) granary was built  
1846 - Oregon Treaty (49th parallel  
established as boundary between the  
United States and British Canadian  
possessions)  
1851 - Construction of New Granary  
1869 - Treaty of 1869 (Ownership of Fort  
Nisqually passed to the United States)

Significant Person(s):

Archibald MacDonald  
Dr. William Fraser Tolmie

Cultural Affiliation:

Architect/Builder:

Dr. William Fraser Tolmie

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**State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.**

The Granary of Fort Nisqually was completed in 1851 under the direction of Dr. William Tolmie. Building material from earlier storage houses from a previously constructed Fort Nisqually was probably employed in its construction. Although the Granary has been altered several times, all available research has been used to reconstruct it, with much of the original material, in its original condition. Although it has been moved several times from its original location, the Granary is significant since it is the only surviving building which represents the post-in-sill style of architecture in the United States, and is the oldest surviving building in the State of Washington. Its present location within a reconstructed Fort Nisqually places it in the context of its original environment. Its maintenance, preservation, and historical research under the guidance of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma provides it both protection and an outlet to educate the public on its historical significance.

The Granary was an integral part of Fort Nisqually, which was built by the Hudson's Bay Company, and, as a result, its history has both international and national significance, and played an integral part in the history of the Puget Sound. Fort Nisqually was part of a network of Hudson's Bay Company forts that were constructed in the Puget Sound area and into present day British Columbia. These forts represent the first attempt at permanent settlement by the Europeans. Fort Nisqually, which became the center of the Company's agricultural operations, supplied food and goods to many other Hudson's Bay Company forts throughout the region, and influenced the settlement patterns of the surrounding area.

Fort Nisqually was a focal point of the controversy between the employees of the Company and the early American settlers. The resultant hostile encounter and uncompromising goals were played out in the background of international conflicts. The resultant treaties played a direct part in the ultimate outcome of these local conflicts. In the end, the business goals of the Company employees and the disinterest of the British government lost out to the aggressive expansion of American settlers and the saber rattling of many local and federal government officials. Ultimately, the Puget Sound region became part of the United States, and the forts of the Hudson's Bay Company fell into disrepair.

Settlement of the Puget Sound region began with the Convention of 1818 between the United States and Great Britain, which provided for the joint occupation to the "Oregon country," which roughly includes the present states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. No provisions for its settlement were agreed upon, and neither side could exercise sovereignty on the region. This set the condition for both powers to strengthen their claims for future negotiations, and later, to conflicts between the Hudson's Bay Company, which was a bureaucratic monopoly owned by absentee landlords who employed wage earning functionaries, and American settlers, who professed

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the frontier ethic, individualism, and had little respect for government and authority.<sup>1</sup>

George Simpson, who was charged with supervising the transfer of the Hudson's Bay Company's Columbia District headquarters from Fort George to Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River, believed the Company should concentrate its effort on the Puget Sound and the Cowlitz Valley.<sup>2</sup> Fort Nisqually was a result of this policy. He also directed the Company's policy toward expanding the fur trade along the coast and in the region. The intent was to monopolize the market and make settlement by Americans unprofitable, thereby strengthening the claims of the British government to the region.<sup>3</sup> This policy seemed to work until the 1830s, when American settlers began to undermine the Company's commerce. The American settlers owned their land as opposed to British settlers, who were subject to the many rules of the Company and were not allowed to own the land on which they labored. The Company's policy was doomed to failure.

In 1821 Dr. John McLoughlin was chosen by the Hudson's Bay Company to manage the fur trade in the Oregon Country from Fort Vancouver, and later became superintendent of the Company's Columbia Department.<sup>4</sup> He appointed Archibald MacDonald to find a suitable location for the establishment of a post in the lower Puget Sound region. In the spring of 1832 MacDonald, on a routine trip from Fort Langley to Fort Vancouver, paused on the shores of Puget Sound just north of the Nisqually River. Here he supervised the construction of a temporary storehouse, and then continued on his way, leaving several men behind. The following spring MacDonald returned to the site. The buildings at the original site were torn down and a new settlement was built one-quarter of a mile from the beach, along a small stream named Sequelitchew, on a hill north of the Nisqually River. A log house was built as a trading post, which was the first European settlement and the first commercial enterprise on the Sound.<sup>5</sup> This post was named Nisqually and was constructed in the expectation of becoming the primary base for fur trade north of the Columbia River. McLoughlin decided to move

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<sup>1</sup>Peter C. Newman, Caesars of the Wilderness, Company of Adventurers, Vol. 2 (Markham, Ontario: Viking, 1987), p. 276.

<sup>2</sup>Jean Murray Cole, Exile in the Wilderness, Life of Chief Factor Archibald McDonald (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1979), pp. 105-106.

<sup>3</sup>John S. Galbraith, The Hudson's Bay Company as an Imperial Factor, 1821-1869 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1957), pp. 136-137.

<sup>4</sup>Mary W. Avery, History and Government of the State of Washington (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1961), pp. 105-107.

<sup>5</sup>Patricia Sias, "A Visit to Fort Nisqually," Landmarks, Winter, 1982, p. 18.



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cattle from Fort Vancouver to Nisqually after reports by MacDonald that the area had level prairies for grazing. The fur traders at the post began to trade with the local Native Americans tribes, including the Sinuamish, the Clallam, the Snoquamish, the Puyallup, the Sinahomish, and others. They also began to sow onions, carrots, turnips, cabbage, potatoes and grains.<sup>6</sup> A saw mill, thrashing mill and store house were built.<sup>7</sup> The symbol of the Hudson's Bay Company's dominance of the Pacific Coast was the arrival of the Beaver in 1835. This vessel was the first steamship commissioned by the Hudson's Bay Company, and the first to sail the Pacific Coast and the Puget Sound. Nisqually became its home port.<sup>8</sup>

Dr. William Tolmie came to the "Oregon country" in 1833 as a fur trader with the Company. Through his contact with the local native tribes he became a recognized authority on native American affairs and languages. He became a Company employee at Fort Nisqually and later was appointed its commander.<sup>9</sup> The fur trade, however, quickly declined, as the "Nisqually Journal" of January 31, 1831 attests. Some of the reasons for the decline were attributed to disease among natives and wars between tribes, which frightened away more peaceful tribes.<sup>10</sup> There also seems to have been over trapping of beavers which coincided with a decline in the demand for beaver top hats in the world of fashion.<sup>11</sup>

Meanwhile Nisqually's role as an agricultural center grew. As early as 1834 cattle from Mexican California were introduced at Fort Nisqually. Through the management of the herds by the Company's employees, these cattle flourished on the local prairie grass, and the herd quickly grew.<sup>12</sup> In the following spring a

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<sup>6</sup>Helen H. Norton, "An Inventory of Goods and Resources Marketed by Native Groups, Fort Nisqually, 1833-1849," Northwest Anthropological Research Notes, Vol. 24, No.1, Spring, 1990, pp. 1-20.

<sup>7</sup>Journals of William Fraser Tolmie, Physician and Fur Trader (Vancouver: Mitchell Press Ltd., 1963), p. 195.

<sup>8</sup>Sias, "A Visit to Fort Nisqually," p. 18.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., p. 17.

<sup>10</sup>Kathryn Marie Troxel, Fort Nisqually and the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, submitted to the Faculty of the Department of History Graduate School, Indiana University, October, 1950, p. 97.

<sup>11</sup>"A Brief History of Fort Nisqually." This is an information sheet compiled by the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma and distributed at the Fort Nisqually Museum site, September 1991. One side is a history of Fort Nisqually. The reverse side is a developmental site plan of Fort Nisqually 1843-1859, with descriptions of each of the buildings located within the site.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

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small store house for grain was built, along with a dairy, cow shed and pig sty.<sup>13</sup> In May, 1837, the first hens arrived and in October a chicken house was built.<sup>14</sup> The harvest of 1837 produced six bushels of barley, 20 of Indian corn, 35 of oats, 100 of peas, 113 of wheat, and 383 of potatoes.<sup>15</sup> The Nisqually "Journal" of November 7, 1837 reported that 28 pounds of fresh pork were sent to the officers of the Beagle.<sup>16</sup>

As the supply of animals for the fur trade diminished, new means of supplying an income for Fort Nisqually were needed. As early as 1834, Governor Simpson recommended to the Hudson's Bay Company committee the formation of a joint stock company to raise cattle and grain for export. The committee rejected it, feeling it would interfere with the fur trade.<sup>17</sup> However, political changes within the United States would cause the Company to alter its views. In March, 1837, W. A. Slacum, a lieutenant in the United States Navy appointed by President Jackson to investigate the situation in the Oregon "country," issued a report that recommended the United States not accept a boundary giving the Puget Sound to Great Britain. In February, 1838, a bill was introduced in the Senate to establish territorial government west of the Rockies north of the 42nd parallel and to send a military force to enforce American authority in the region. The bill failed, but this led to discussions in London regarding expanding agriculture in the Oregon "country" to strengthen British claims. But few stockholders were willing to invest in such a remote area.<sup>18</sup>

Meanwhile an increasing number of Americans were settling into the Willamette Valley. In 1838 Jason Lee lead an American Methodist missionary group into the valley. In addition to advancing his mission, his purpose was to stimulate American interest in the Oregon "country." As a result of increasing American settlement, McLoughlin and Simpson went to London to urge the Hudson's Bay Company officials to promote agricultural settlement under Company control north of the Columbia River. Since the profits from the fur trade were diminishing, and increasing American settlement threatened the operations of the Company, they argued that agriculture could bolster the profits of the Company, and settlers could advance the claims of the British to the area. McLoughlin was instructed to examine areas for agricultural communities where

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<sup>13</sup>Kathryn Marie Troxel, Fort Nisqually and the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, p 81.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid., p. 96.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid., p. 97.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid., p. 96.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid., pp. 134-135.

<sup>18</sup>Galbraith, The Hudson's Bay Company as an Imperial Factor, pp. 197-199.

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there was a good harbor, fertile soil, and plentiful pasture.<sup>19</sup>

On February 27, 1839, the Hudson's Bay Company committee met to discuss the formation of an agricultural company. They decided to set up the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, an independent branch of the Hudson's Bay Company. Dr. McLoughlin was appointed to take charge of the Company's affairs.<sup>20</sup> The bylaws permitted only Hudson's Bay Company officials the right to hold office and retain stock.<sup>21</sup> The original intent of the stockholders was to supply the Hudson's Bay Company trading posts with food. Two farms were established, one at Cowlitz Prairie and one at Nisqually.<sup>22</sup> The Company appointed Dr. William Fraser, Chief Trader of Fort Nisqually, manager of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company. Its headquarters was established at Nisqually.<sup>23</sup> Alexander Caulfield Anderson, as Fort Nisqually's administrator, spent most of 1840 collecting sheep, cattle, horses, pigs, and farm equipment from other company forts.<sup>24</sup> At first Nisqually was to confine its attention to raising cattle and sheep, and raise no more grain than was necessary to maintain the settlement.<sup>25</sup> Very quickly Nisqually supplied the Hudson's Bay Company posts on the Pacific coast up to Russian Alaska with grain, butter, beef, cheese, wool, mutton, and hides.<sup>26</sup>

Under the administration of Angus McDonald (1841-1843) nearly 200 acres of potatoes, peas, barley, wheat, and oats were cultivated.<sup>27</sup> By 1841 Nisqually farm produced about 1,000 bushels of wheat, 300 of oats, 50 of barley, and 1,000 of potatoes. The farm also owned 4,530 sheep and 1,000 head of cattle. By 1845 this had grown to 2,280 long-horned Spanish cattle and 5,872 sheep, and the farm was exporting 10,000 pounds of wool, as well as hides, horns, and

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<sup>19</sup>Ibid., p. 194.

<sup>20</sup>Troxel, Fort Nisqually and the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, p. 137.

<sup>21</sup>"A Brief History of Fort Nisqually"

<sup>22</sup>"The Puget Sound Agricultural Company," Landmarks IV, No. 4: p. 19.

<sup>23</sup>See National Historic Landmark Nomination for Fort Nisqually Granary and Factor's House, (4/15/70, #70000647), Preservation Assistance Division, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

<sup>24</sup>"The Puget Sound Agricultural Company," Landmarks, p. 19;

<sup>25</sup>Troxel, Fort Nisqually and the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, p. 139.

<sup>26</sup>"A Brief History of Fort Nisqually."

<sup>27</sup>Ibid.

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tallow, to England.<sup>28</sup>

In the spring of 1843 Tolmie began his 16 year administration of Fort Nisqually. His first undertaking was to move the Company one mile inland to the east from the location it had inhabited since 1833. The expanding needs of the farm required a location that would provide more open acreage. The move would also supply the fort with a closer water supply, provided by the Sequelitchew Creek.<sup>29</sup> The fort was built on the same format as the first, but there were constant changes until 1855. Dr. Tolmie promoted further agricultural development, putting a total of nearly 1,000 acres under cultivation, and claiming about 252 square miles for the Fort.<sup>30</sup>

Meanwhile there was increasing agitation by the American public to organize a government in the northwest and to make the 49th parallel the border of the United States.<sup>31</sup> At the same time Americans continued to settle in the region, though still primarily south of the Columbia River. In an effort to counterbalance American immigration, the Hudson's Bay Company attempted a colonization scheme of its own. In 1841 it imported 116 people from the Red River settlement. Seventy-seven of them were settled at Fort Nisqually. However, since the light sandy soil did not produce good crops and the Company refused to grant them title to the land, by 1843 they all left Nisqually for the more fertile and free lands of the Willamette Valley.<sup>32</sup> The British government made no further attempts to bring British settlers to the region.<sup>33</sup> While the British government lost interest in the area, American settlers, and increasingly the United States government, took an interest in the region. By 1843 they were already settling on the outskirts of Nisqually and building small farms.<sup>34</sup> On May 2, 1843 the American settlers formed a provisional government and adopted a body of laws. There now was an increasing belief by the American

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<sup>28</sup>"Fort Nisqually Granary and Factor's House," NHL Nomination (1970).

<sup>29</sup>Troxel, Fort Nisqually and the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, p. 132; "A Brief History of Fort Nisqually."

<sup>30</sup>"A Brief History of Fort Nisqually."

<sup>31</sup>Galbraith, The Hudson's Bay Company as an Imperial Factor, pp. 233-250.

<sup>32</sup>"A Brief History of Fort Nisqually;" Fort Nisqually Granary and Factor's House" NHL Form (1970).

<sup>33</sup>Howay, Sage and Angus, British Columbia and the United States (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1942), p. 126.

<sup>34</sup>Troxel, Fort Nisqually and the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, p. 171.

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public that the British were intruders to the Oregon "country."<sup>35</sup> However, until 1843 only the legislative branch of the United States government agitated for American sovereignty over all of "Oregon."<sup>36</sup> The Hudson's Bay Company warned the British government of increasing American agitation to oust the British, but the position of the foreign office was to take little action as long as resolutions to the United States Congress were defeated and unsupported by executive action.<sup>37</sup>

President Taylor used the mounting national preoccupation with "Oregon," and the British government's lack of interest in the area, to put himself at the head of the expansionists. Prime Minister Aberdeen considered "Oregon" a wasteland and of no national interest to Great Britain. He informed the British minister in Washington to accept the 49th parallel as the boundary since it was not worth a war. At the same time he insisted on the protection of the Company's rights to their property. Under both Presidents Tyler and Polk there was intense discussion between the United States and Great Britain regarding sovereignty over the "Oregon" country.<sup>38</sup>

As these discussions were taking place Americans continued to settle in the Puget Sound area. The largest group was the "Bush-Simmons" party, who settled in the Tumwater area in 1845. Although Dr. Tolmie was generous in loaning tools and work animals to the settlers, Americans increasingly encroached on Hudson's Bay Company land.<sup>39</sup>

On June 14, 1846, the governments of Great Britain and the United States signed the Oregon Treaty. The 49th parallel was extended to the Pacific Ocean. Lands to the north remained under British sovereignty. The lands south of the 49th parallel was turned over to the sovereignty of the United States. The treaty allowed lands occupied by British subjects and by the Puget Sound Agricultural Company to be confirmed to them, with a stipulation that they might be transferred to the United States at a later date.<sup>40</sup> The Puget

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<sup>35</sup>Howay, Sage, and Angus, British Columbia and the United States, p. 125.

<sup>36</sup>This includes the present states of Washington, Oregon, and most of Idaho.

<sup>37</sup>Galbraith, The Hudson's Bay Company as an Imperial Factor, pp. 229-250.

<sup>38</sup>Howay, Sage, and Angus, British Columbia and the United States, pp.230-232.

<sup>39</sup>"A Brief History of Fort Nisqually;" Fort Nisqually Granary and Factor's House NHL nomination (1970).

<sup>40</sup>Sias, "A Visit to Fort Nisqually," p. 18; Troxel, Fort Nisqually and the Puget's Sound Agricultural Co., p. 181; "A Brief History of Fort Nisqually."

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Sound Agricultural Company complained that they had built and established themselves in a no man's land of unsettled sovereignty, had carried on trade and had established a viable fur trading and agricultural economy, and were bitter that the treaty would bring an end to their way of life.<sup>41</sup>

The Company claimed all the agricultural and grazing land between the Puyallup and Nisqually Rivers from the Puget Sound to the Cascades, or about 167,000 acres. The American settlers resented this claim and believed the land should be open to American settlers. Growing tension between the Americans and the Company increased. One strange event took place in 1849, as a result of the pressures the native tribes were feeling by the growing number of settlers. One day about 100 members of the Snoqualmie tribe arrived at Fort Nisqually to inquire into the treatment of the daughter of a Snoqualmie Chief, who had married a Nisqually native living at the Fort. A scuffle broke out at the gate of the fort. The gate was closed, shots were fired, and one American was killed and another wounded. Some claimed that the Americans had been purposely left outside the Fort to be massacred by the Native Americans.<sup>42</sup>

Bitterness increased between the Company and an increasing number of settlers, who began to appropriate wooden fences, plowed up pasture land, and shot animals which belonged to the Company.<sup>43</sup> Some began to squat on the Company's grazing lands, particularly after the Company sent herds of cattle south of the Nisqually River to graze.<sup>44</sup> The Americans in the area were incensed, thinking that the Company was extending its lands. Under intense pressure, and through a series of resolutions, the Company was forced to withdraw its cattle north of the river.<sup>45</sup> By 1851 there were 28 alleged cases of trespassing by squatters, which grew to 50 by 1853. The squatters were prepared to use force to maintain their claims.<sup>46</sup> Dr. Tolmie countered this pressure by distributing written notices of trespass, and by appealing to the American court in Olympia in restitution for loss of property and livestock. But the Company received little redress in the courts, which were sympathetic to

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<sup>41</sup>Howay, Sage, and Angus, British Columbia and the United States, p. 130.

<sup>42</sup>"The Puget Sound Agricultural Company," p. 19.

<sup>43</sup>"A Brief History of Fort Nisqually"

<sup>44</sup>Howay, Sage, and Angus, British Columbia and the United States, p.132.

<sup>45</sup>Sias, "A Visit to Fort Nisqually," p. 18; "The Puget Sound Agricultural Company," p. 19.

<sup>46</sup>Galbraith, The Hudson's Bay Company as an Imperial Factor, p. 268.

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the squatters.<sup>47</sup>

Dr. Tolmie and his associates were also harassed by tax collectors and revenue agents. In April, 1850, the Hudson's Bay Company's vessel Cardboro was seized by U.S. revenue officers for carrying goods directly from Victoria to Fort Nisqually. They paid duties under protest when the Company's post at Nisqually was seized for smuggling goods.<sup>48</sup> In November, 1851, customs officials seized the Company's steamers Beaver and Mary Dare for failure to adhere to customs regulations. The vessels were released after the Company took the matter to the courts. When a decision was reached in favor of the Company, the settlers believed that the judge was bribed.<sup>49</sup> Nonetheless, the necessity to adhere to customs regulations marked a steady decline in the company's ability to turn a profit in American territory.<sup>50</sup>

Pressure on the Company by the territorial government continued to mount. In 1853, the first governor of Washington territory, Isaac I. Stevens, delivered an address to the territorial legislature in which he strongly recommended that the Hudson's Bay Company and the Puget Sound Agricultural Company be bought out and their business operations terminated and their land be turned over to American settlers. He also advised that in the interim the Companies be prohibited from trading with the local native tribes. The legislature responded by submitting a request to Congress to purchase the lands immediately. The State Department secretly supported Stevens, and encouraged him to find reasons to appropriate Company lands.<sup>51</sup>

To strengthen his legal claims to the Company lands, Dr. Tolmie submitted a map of the Company's lands to the Surveyor General, outlining the Company's claims according to the 1846 treaty. (See Figure No. 3) This angered the American settlers, since the Surveyor General was not authorized to survey lands within the boundaries claimed by the Company, and therefore, settlers were not able to claim title to such lands.<sup>52</sup> In 1859 the Pierce County commissioners ordered that the Company be assessed for taxes, but the Company refused to pay since taxes could not be levied on claims unless patents had been received from the United States General Land Office. A patent could not be issued until a survey was done by the Surveyor General, but since the Company claimed its lands through treaty, no claim was filed and no survey was

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<sup>47</sup>Ibid.

<sup>48</sup>Howay, Sage, and Angus, British Coloumbia and the United States, p. 134.

<sup>49</sup>Ibid., p. 135.

<sup>50</sup>"A Brief History of Fort Nisqually"

<sup>51</sup>"The Puget Sound Agricultural Company," p. 19.

<sup>52</sup>Ibid., p. 20.

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requested. The case went to trial, and after several appeals was finally dismissed on a technicality in 1867.<sup>53</sup>

In the fall of 1855 a war broke out between the territorial government and the local native tribes. This event, more than anything else, caused the Americans to desire to rid the territory of the Company. With an army to provision, the territorial government was forced to turn to the Hudson's Bay Company and the Puget Sound Agricultural Company for food and other supplies. In spite of the cooperation of the Companies, governor Stevens accused them of aiding the native tribes. These charges may have been partially justified since many of the Company's employees were related in marriage to the local natives.<sup>54</sup>

The final settlement regarding the status of the Hudson's Bay Company was decided as a result of larger international considerations. In July, 1863, Secretary of State Williams Seward and British Minister Lord Lyons concluded an agreement to seek a settlement to the Company's claims, which initiated a six year inquiry. The treaty of September 10, 1869, provided for the transfer of all the rights and claims of the Hudson's Bay Company lands to the United States in return for the amount of \$650,000, which was the value of the lands assessed by a joint commission.<sup>55</sup> All the livestock and moveable property was transported to Canada. Dr. Tolmie moved to Victoria and became a board member of the Hudson's Bay Company's Western Department. Edward Huggins was left in charge of Nisqually. He eventually became a naturalized American, and held title to the fort and several acres surrounding it. The Puget Sound Agricultural Company and the Hudson's Bay Company suspended operations south of the 49th parallel. By the time the DuPont Powder Company purchased the land in 1906, the buildings had fallen into disrepair.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>53</sup>Ibid.

<sup>54</sup>Ibid.

<sup>55</sup>"The Puget Sound Agricultural Company," p. 20; Sias, "A Visit to Fort Nisqually," p. 18; Troxel, Fort Nisqually and the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, p. 182.

<sup>56</sup>"A Brief History of Fort Nisqually"



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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**Books

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"Ceremony on Sunday." Tacoma News Tribune. 13 May 1971.

"County's Oldest Settlement." Tacoma News Tribune. 7 April 1953,

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sec. C, p. 2.

"Granary at Nisqually Now Historic Landmark." Seattle Post-Intelligencer. 17 May 1971, sec. S, p. 5.

"Nisqually Fort Site Makes Historic List." Tacoma News Tribune. 13 May 1971.

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William Fraser Tolmie, Agent of Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, to James Lilton, Surveyor General of Washington Territory, May 7, 1855. (Washington State Archives, Olympia, Washington)

James Lilton, Surveyor General of Washington Territory, to McClelland, Secretary of the Interior, July, 1855. (Washington State Archives, Olympia, Washington)

Steven A. Anderson, Curator, Fort Nisqually Museum, to David Hansen, Deputy Officer, Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, July 31, 1984.

**PROPERTY NAME**

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## Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☒ Previously Listed in the National Register.  
#70000647, listed 4/15/70
- ☐ Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
- ☒ Designated a National Historic Landmark.
- ☒ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey:  
#WA-37-C
- ☐ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record:  
#\_\_\_\_\_

## Primary Location of Additional Data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☒ Other State Agency
- ☒ Federal Agency
- ☒ Local Government
- ☒ University
- ☒ Other (Specify Repository):

Fort Nisqually Museum  
Point Defiance Park  
Tacoma, Washington 98407

Suzallo Library, Special Collections  
University of Washington  
Seattle, Washington 98105

Tacoma Public Library  
Northwest Room  
1102 Tacoma Avenue, South  
Tacoma, Washington 98402

Washington State Archives  
12th and Washington  
Olympia, Washington 98504

Washington State Historical Society  
315 North Stadium Way  
Tacoma, Washington 98403

Washington State Library  
Northwest Room  
Capitol Campus  
Olympia, Washington 98504

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Acreage of Property: 726 square feet

Building = 620 sq.ft.(31' x 20') + 1 ft. perimeter = 106 sq.ft.

UTM References: Zone Northing Easting Zone Northing Easting

A	<u>10</u>	<u>5238760</u>	<u>535410</u>	B	___	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___	___
E	___	___	___	F	___	___	___

Gig Harbor Quad (7.5 minutes)

Verbal Boundary Description:

Area within one foot perimeter of the building.

Boundary Justification:

Designation includes only the building, which is set within the reconstructed Fort Nisqually site.

**PROPERTY NAME**

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

Name/Title: David Maul, Historian

Org.: National Park Service, Western Regional Office

Street/#: 600 Harrison Street, Suite 600

City/Town: San Francisco

State: California

ZIP: 94107-1372

Telephone: (415) 744-3988

Date: September, 1993

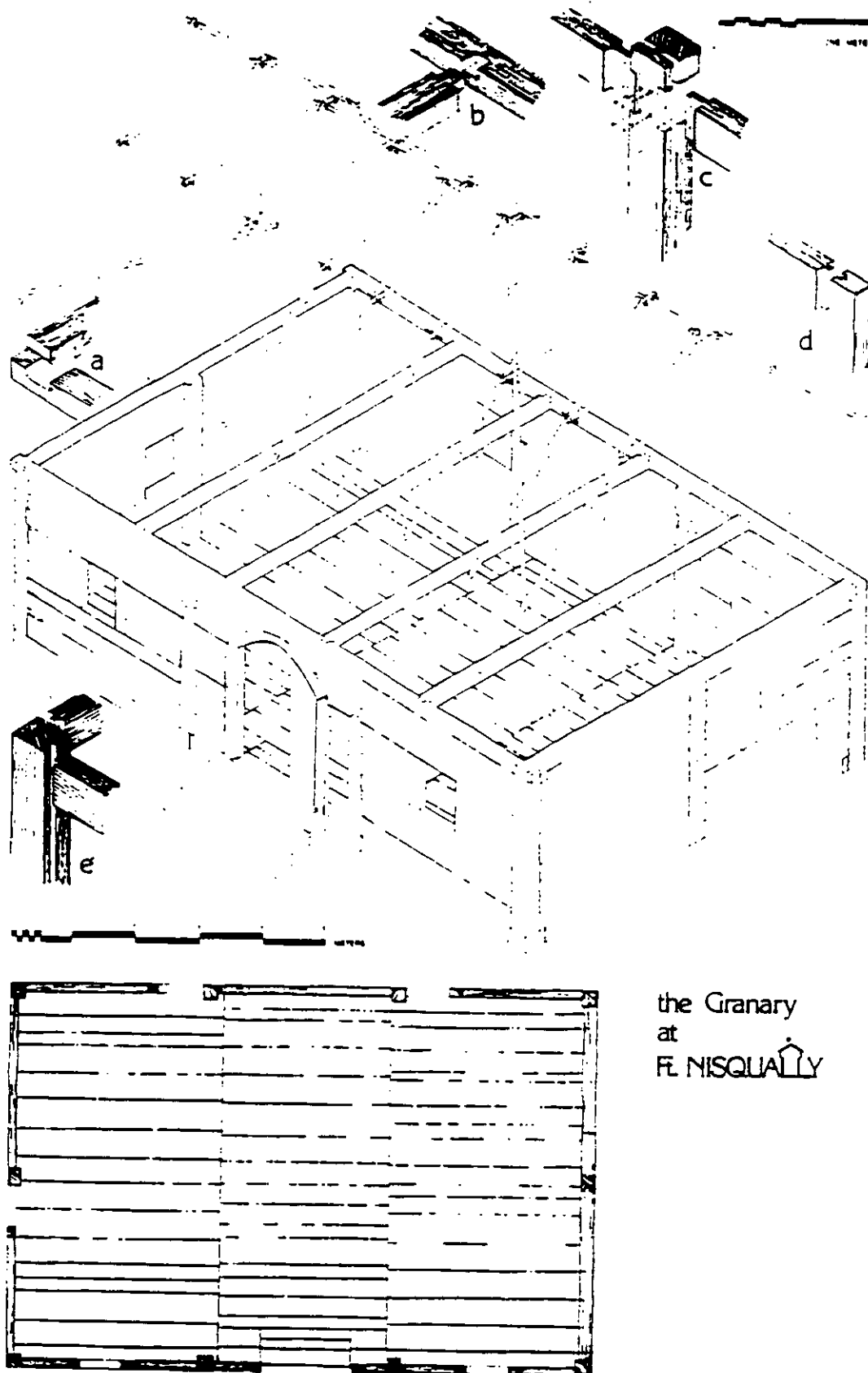
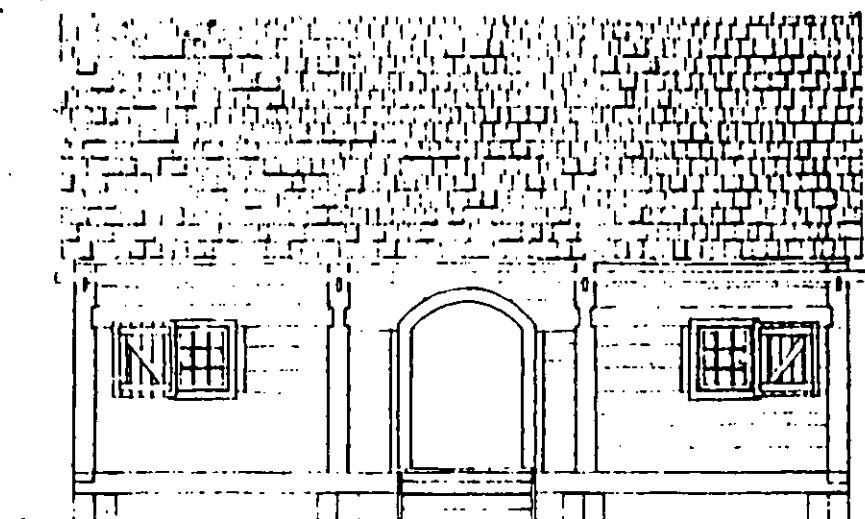
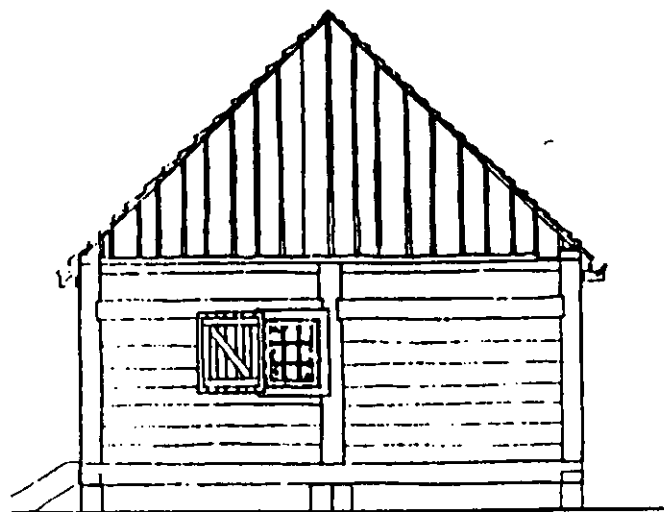
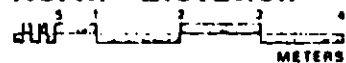


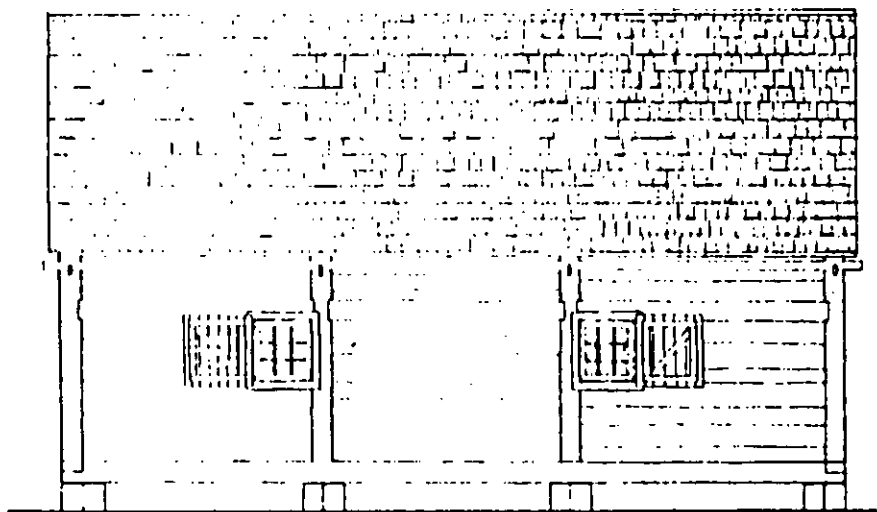
Figure No. 1  
Plan of Granary illustrating the post-in-sill construction design.



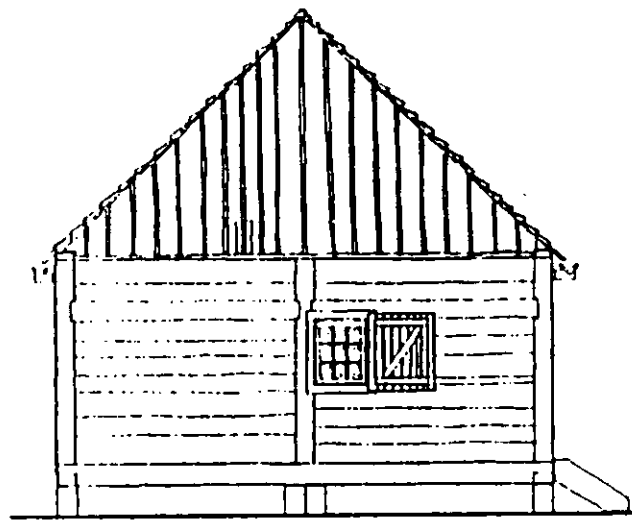
**North Elevation**



**West Elevation**



**South Elevation**



**East Elevation**

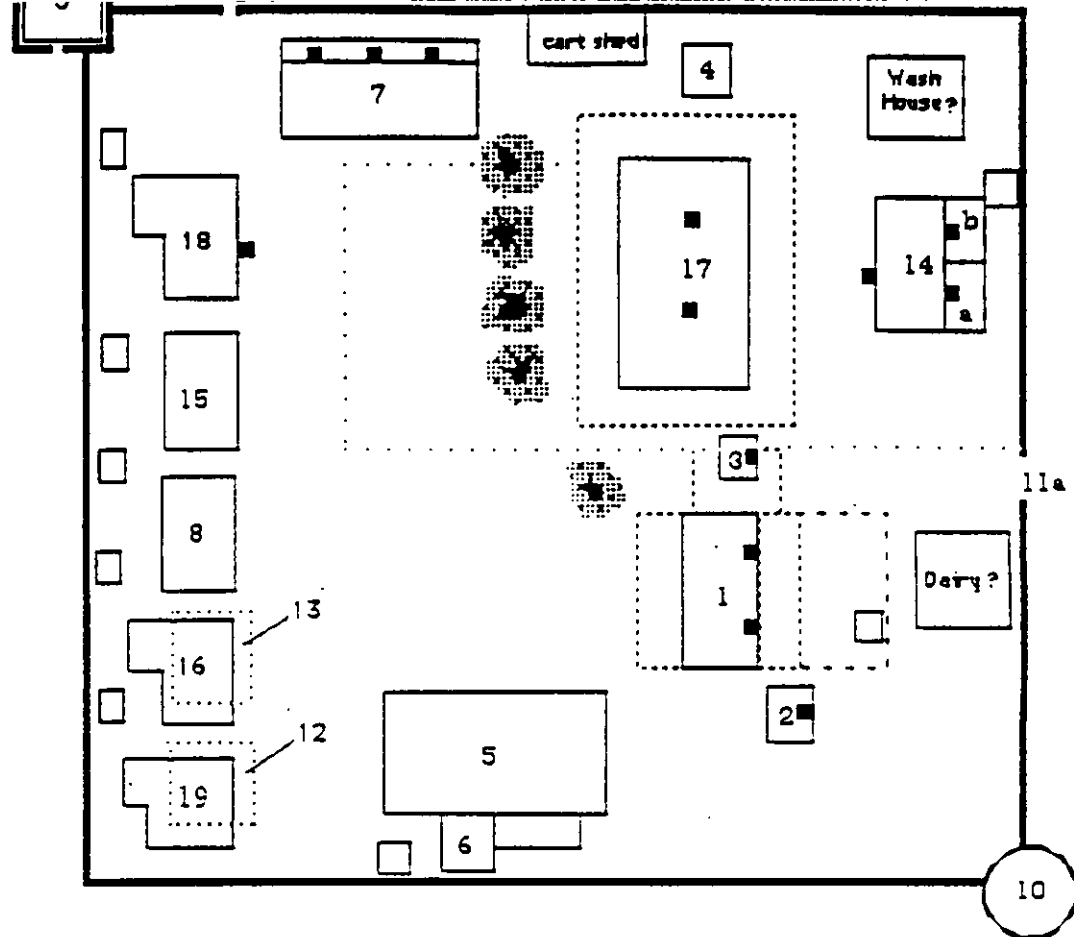
Figure No. 2  
Granary Elevations

Roads 6 miles in width extending to Puyallup River



Figure No. 3  
Pugets Sound Agricultural Land Claim  
at Fort Nisqually, 1852.





### Legend

#	Structure/Feature	Built	Demo'd	Notes:
1.	Tyee/Officer's Dwelling House	1843-44	c. 1895	20 x 30 Cw/ additions.
2.	Old Kitchen	1843-44	1851	Canadian Style.
2.	Clerk's Cabin	1844	1853	Canadian Style, 10' x 15'.
3.	1858 Structure	1858	c. 1900	" Style, photograph avail.
4.	Blockhouse	1844	c. 1850	" Style, Tenalquot style.
5.	Store No. 1	1844	c. 1890	60' x 30' " Style, w/additions.
6.	Press Shed	1844	1849	Ltd. Information.
6.	Packing/Press House	1849	c. 1900	Canadian Style.
7.	Mens' Dwelling House	1845-46	1865	50' x 20' " Style w/additions.
8.	Store No. 2	1846	1885	30' x 20' " Style w/additions.
9.	Northwest Bastion	1848	1885	14x14' square. " Style.
10.	Southeast Bastion	1848	1871	14x14'sq.sides? " Style.
11.	Stockade	1848	1858	20' high. Row of girth rings.
11a.	Main Gate: East	1848	1858	10' high. Wagons/horses.
11b.	Water Gate: North	1848	1858	Man sized.
12.	Potatoe House	c. 1845	1853	Limited Information
13.	Kanaka Dwelling House	-	-	Canadian Style
14.	New Kitchen	1851	1865	Canadian Style
14.	a. Blacksmith Shop	-	-	"
14.	b. Bakery	-	-	"
15.	New Granary	1851	c. 1896	30x20' " Style. Restored.
16.	New Office/Clerk's Dwelling House	1853	c. 1925	20x30' Yankee Style
17.	Factor/Officer's Dwelling House	1854-5	c. 1933	50x30' " w/veranda.
18.	Sales Shop/ Store No. 3	c. 1848	c. 1895	Limited Information.
19.	Forrest/Ross Dwelling House	c. 1849	unknown	Limited information.
20.	Necessaries--usually behind dwellings	unknown	unknown	Limited Information.

Figure No. 4

Fort Nisqually Developmental Site  
Plan, 1843-1859.



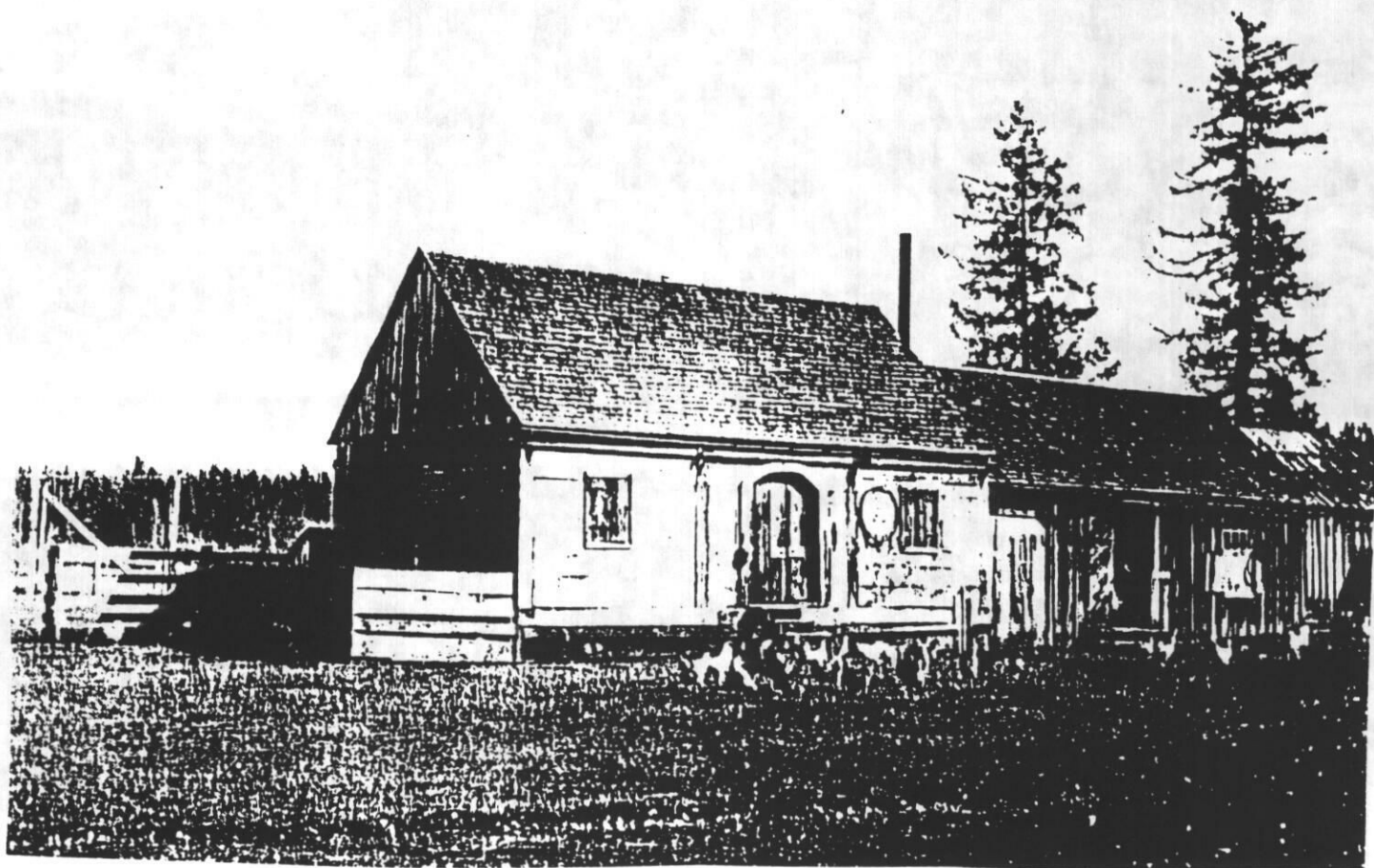


Figure No. 6  
Photograph of the Granary around 1895.

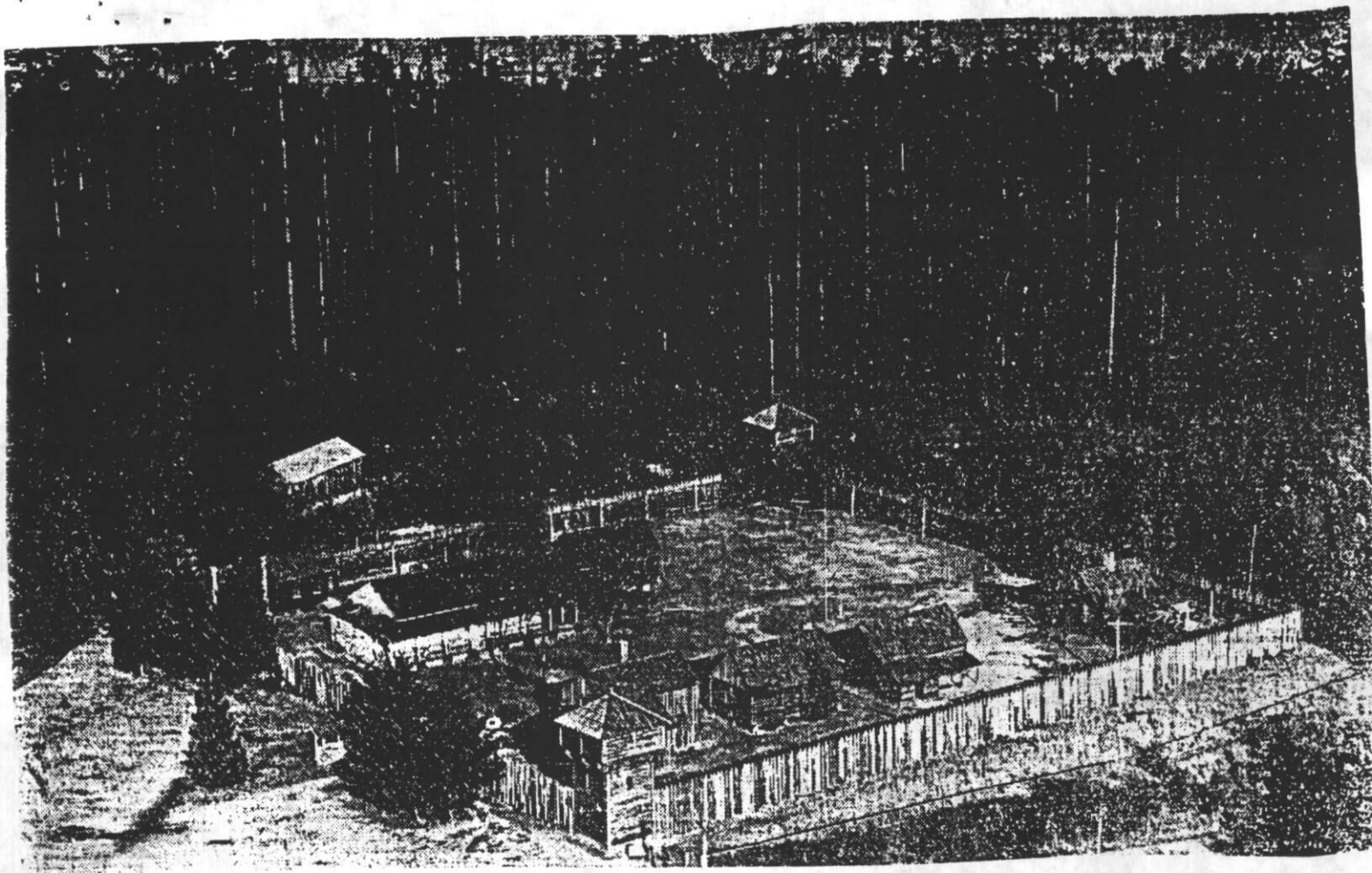


Figure No. 7

1953 Photograph of reconstructed Fort  
Nisqually at the Point Defiance Park  
site, Tacoma, Washington

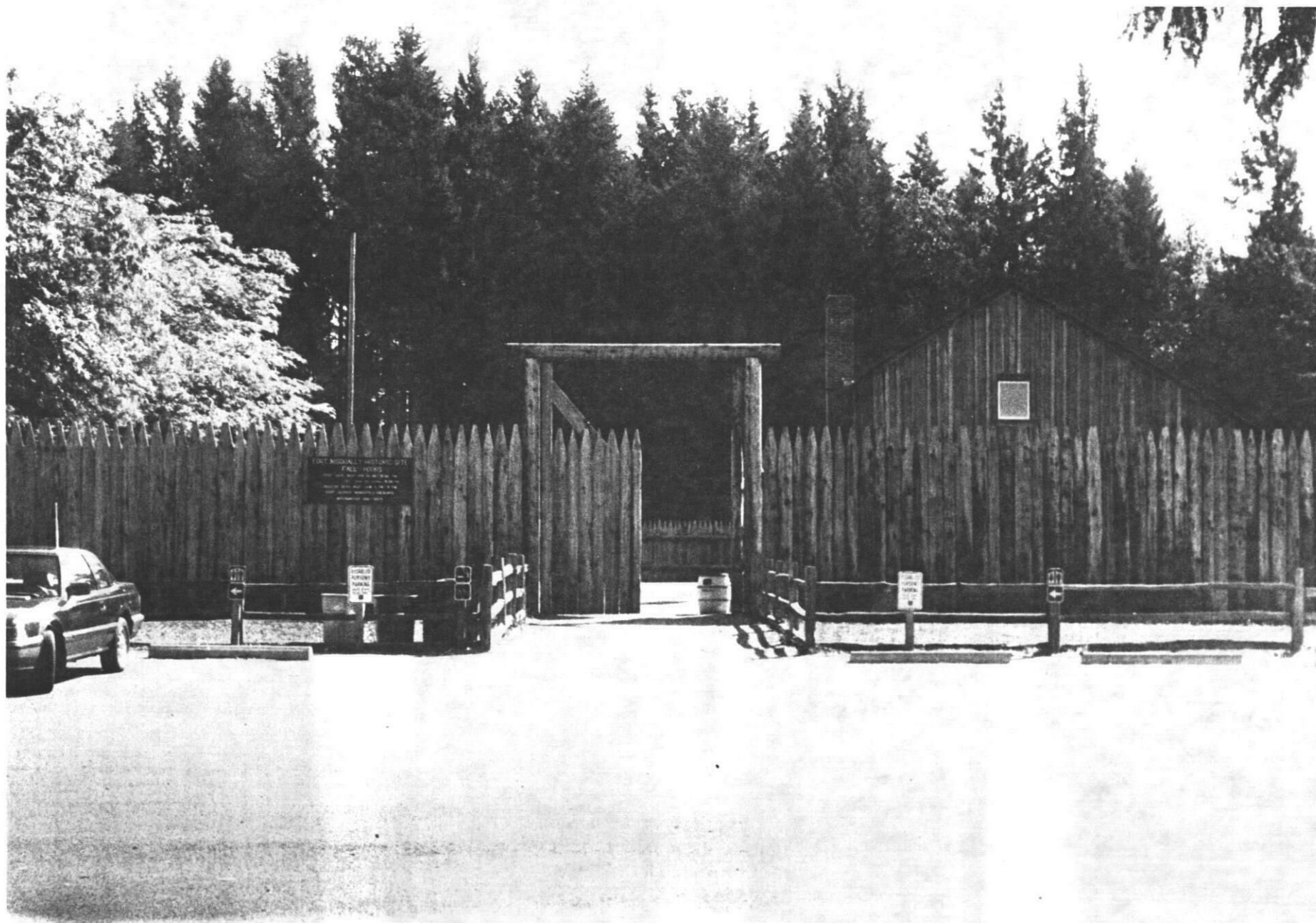


Photo No. 1



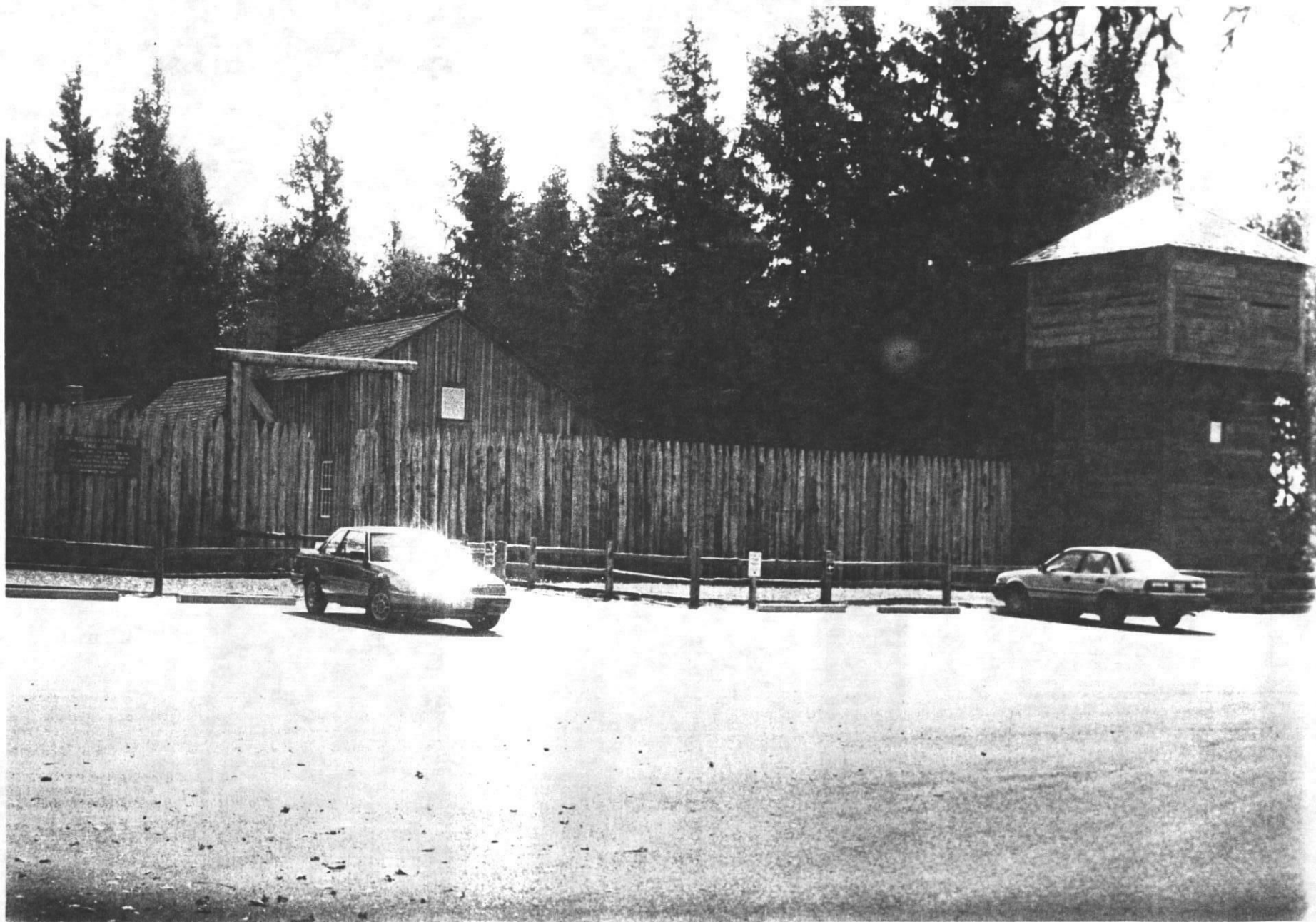


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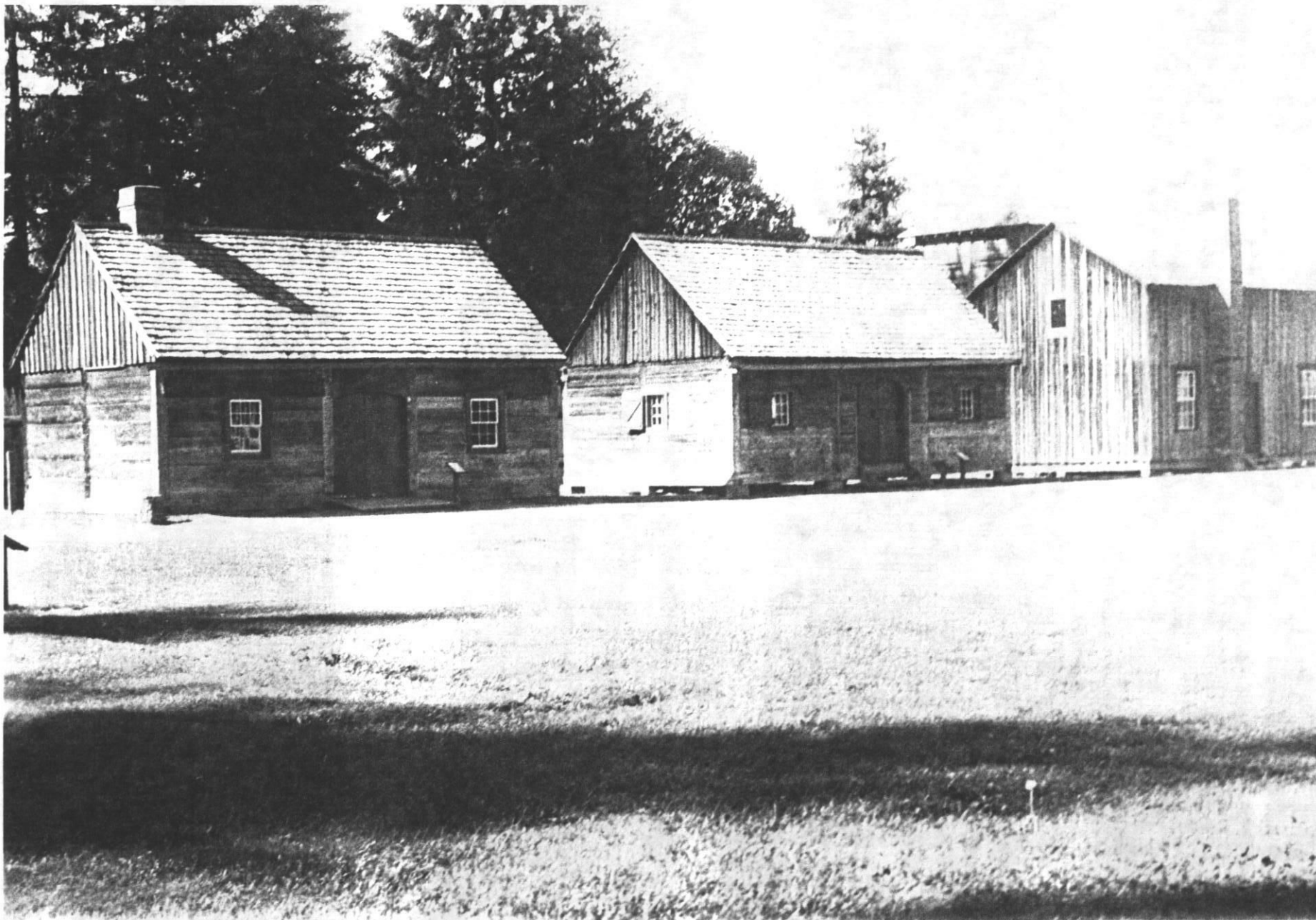


Photo No. 3



Photo No. 4





Photo No. 5

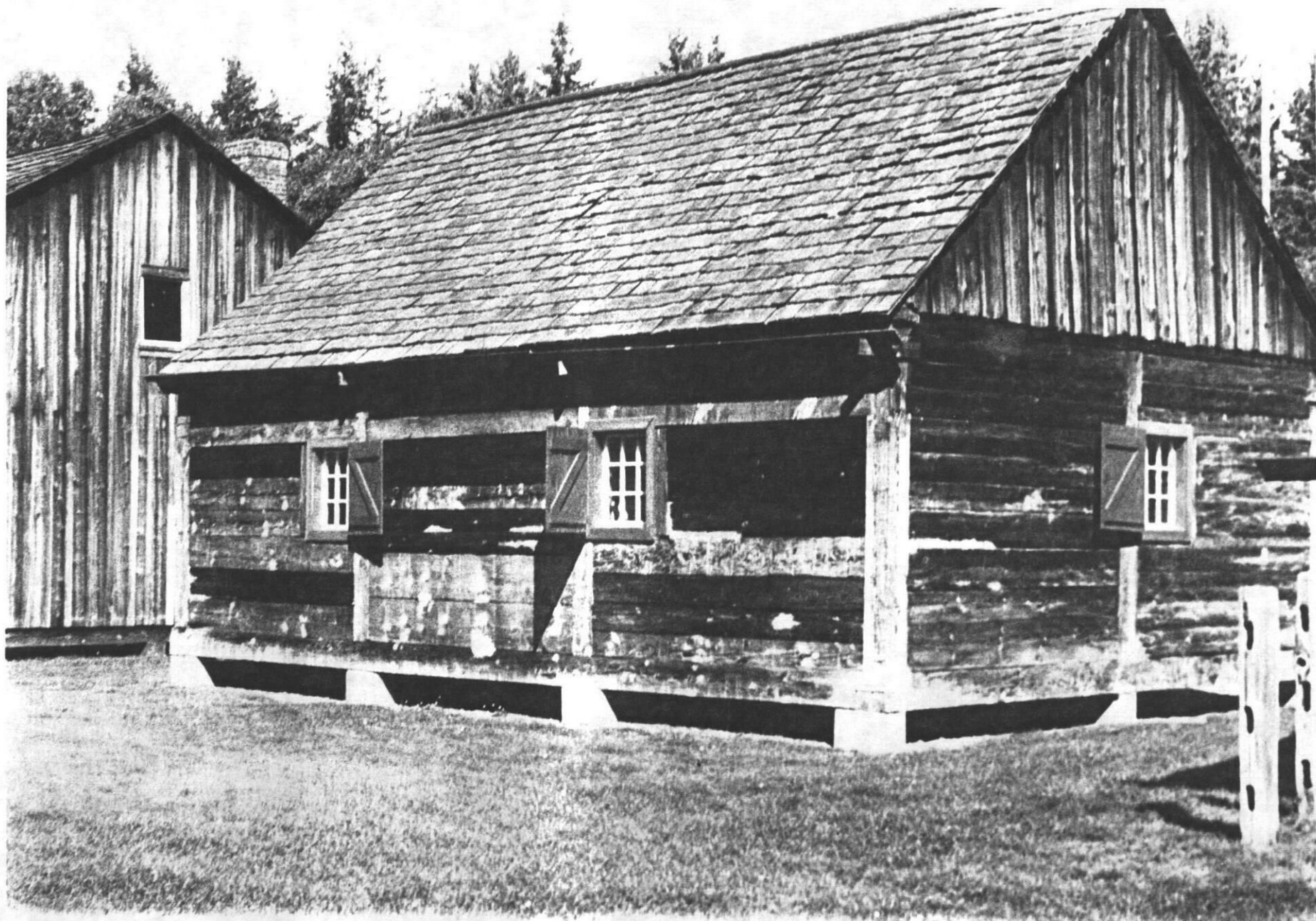


Photo No. 6





Photo No. 7

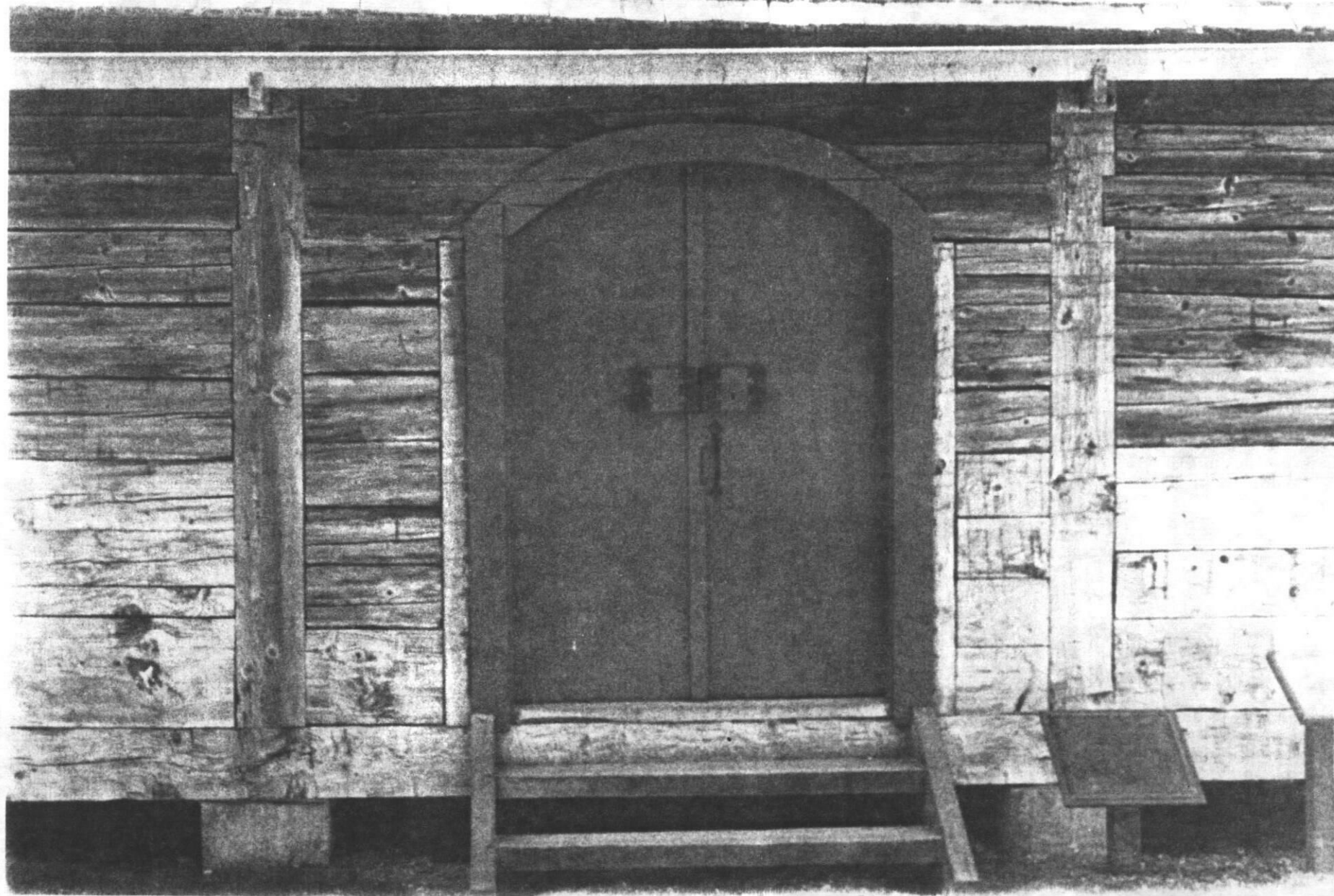


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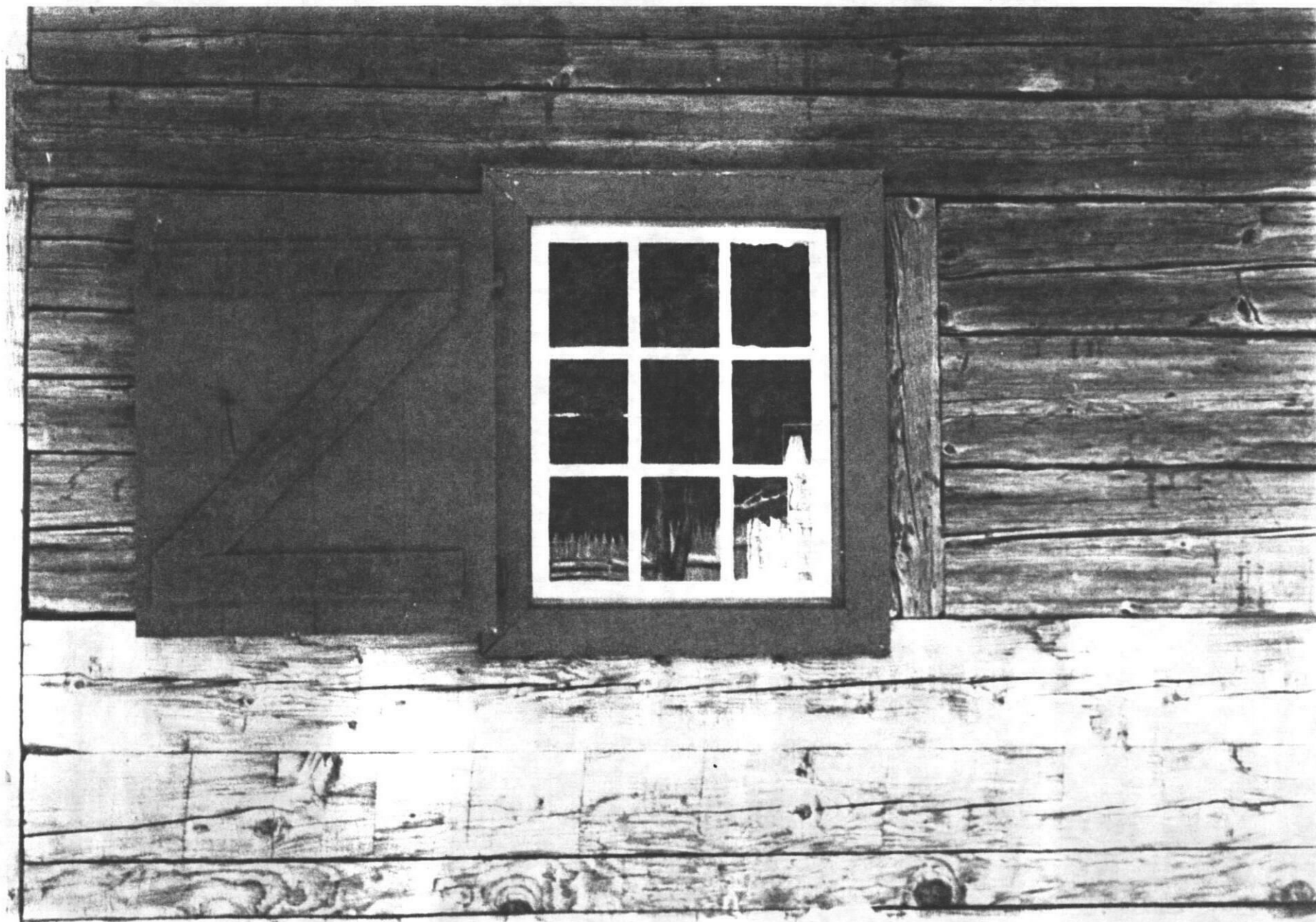


Photo No. 9



Photo No. 10



Photo No. 11



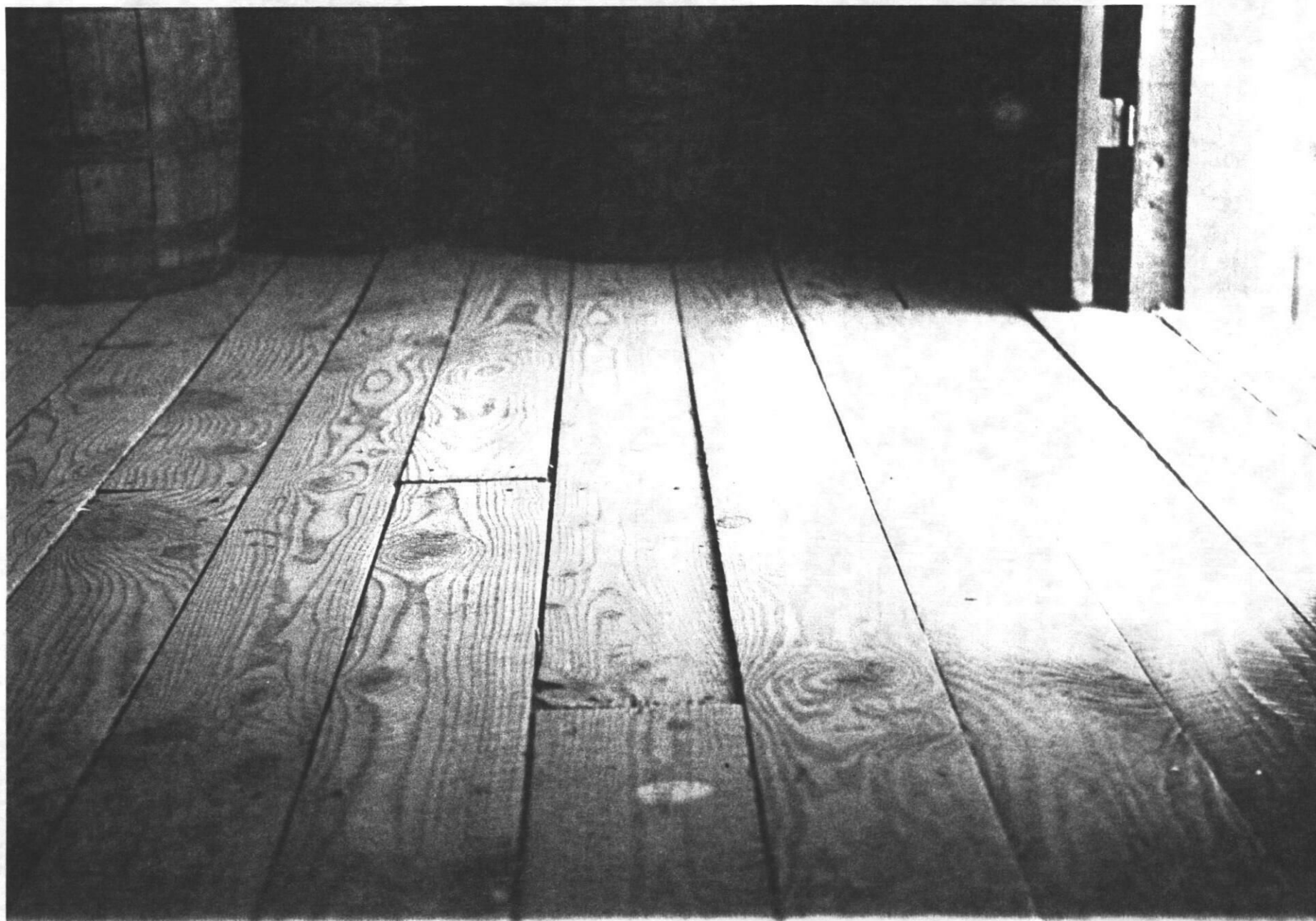


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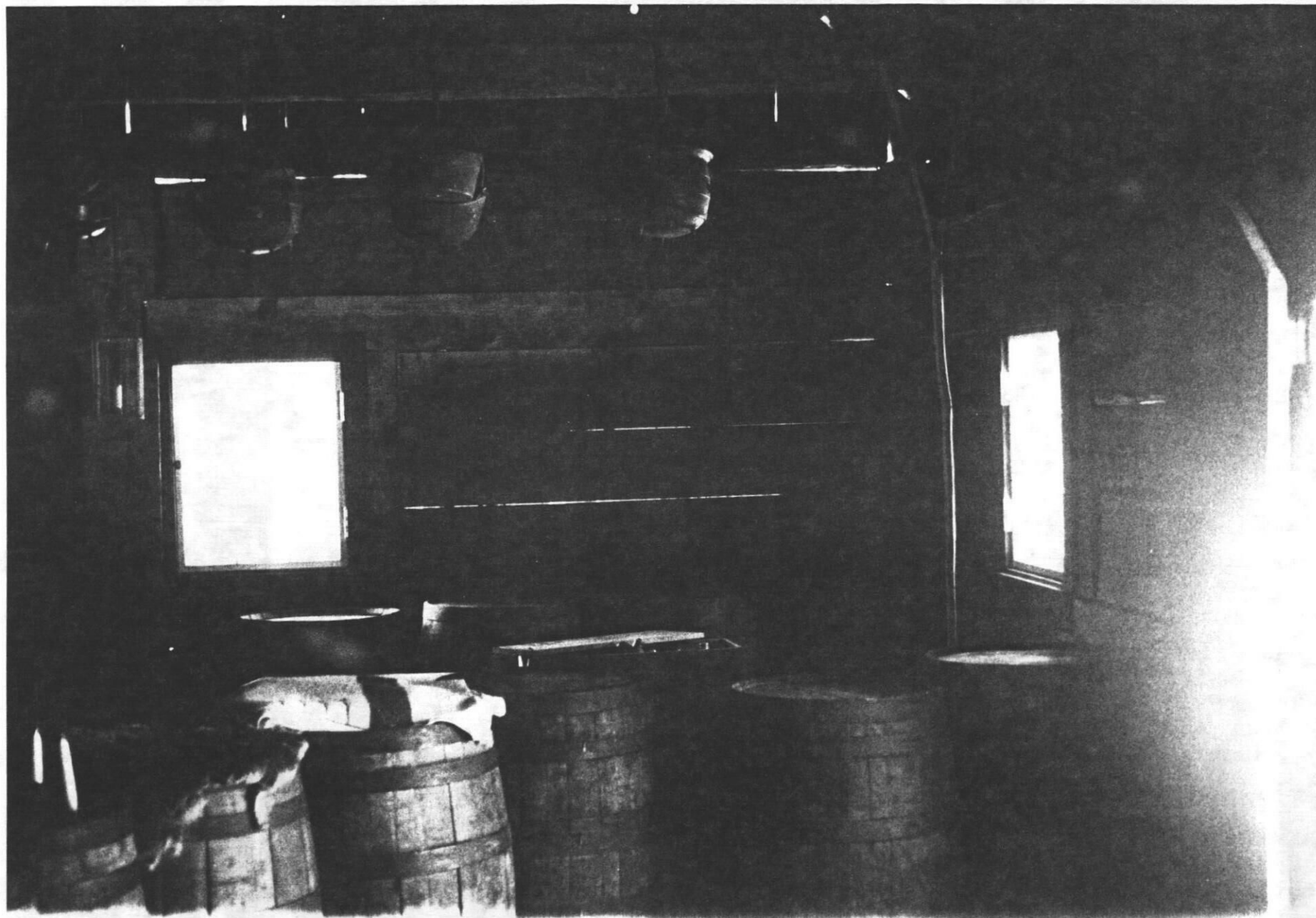


Photo No. 13



Photo No. 14

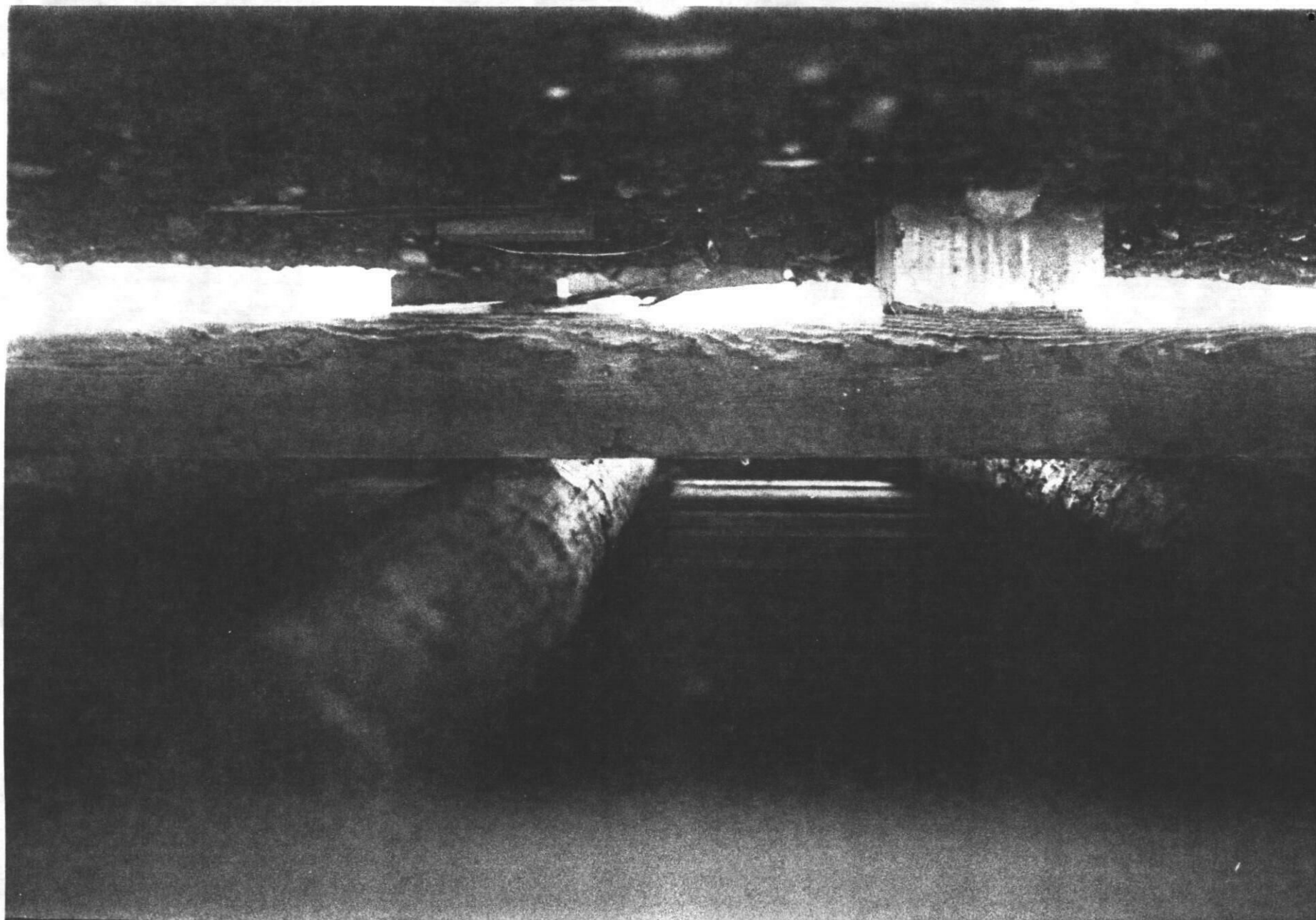


Photo No. 15

# National Historic Landmark

## Site of National Significance

### Fort Nisqually Granary, Washington

Location: Point Defiance Park, entrance at 45th and Pearl Streets, Tacoma, Washington.

Ownership: City of Tacoma, Washington.

## Statement of Significance

The Fort Nisqually Granary, built in 1843, is the only surviving original example in the United States of the Hudson's Bay Company's "posts-in-the-sill" or Canadian method of log construction --a type of log construction that was widely used by the fur traders, missionaries, and settlers of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington prior to 1846.<sup>1</sup> The Granary is also the oldest extant structure in Washington.

<sup>1</sup>The major Pacific Northwest fur trading forts built, or rebuilt, on the posts-in-the-sill method of log construction include the following examples:

1. Fort Astoria (later Fort George) (1811-1850).
2. Spokane House, Washington (1811-1826).
3. Fort Okanogan, Washington (1811-1860).
4. Old Fort Walla Walla (Nez Percé), Washington (1818-1855).
5. Fort Vancouver, Washington (1824-1860).
6. Old Fort Colville, Washington (1826-1871).
7. Old Fort Umpqua, Oregon (1832-1851).
8. Fort Nisqually, Washington (1833-1869).
9. Old Fort Boise, Idaho (1834-1856).
10. Fort Hall, Idaho (1834-1856).
11. Fort Stikine, Alaska (1840-1867).
12. Fort Yukon, Alaska (1847-1869).

The only two surviving structures of all these former Hudson's Bay Company posts are the Granary and Factor's House of Fort Nisqually. In 1839-42, adobe, as well as logs, was also used in rebuilding Old Fort Walla Walla, Fort Okanogan, Fort Hall, and Old Fort Boise.

FORT NISQUALLY GRANARY, PIERCE COUNTY,  
TACOMA, WASHINGTON

Boundaries of the Historic Site:

Approximately 24.79 acres of land, including the Fort Nisqually Granary, Factor's House, and reconstructed buildings of the fort, starting at the southwest corner at latitude  $47^{\circ}18' 07''$  N. - longitude  $122^{\circ}32' 00''$  W., proceeding north about 1200 feet to the northwest corner at lat.  $47^{\circ}18' 19''$  N. - long.  $122^{\circ}32' 00''$  W., continuing east about 900 feet to the northeast corner at lat.  $47^{\circ}18'19''$  N. - long.  $122^{\circ}31' 41''$  W., going south about 1200 feet to the southeast corner at lat.  $47^{\circ}18' 07''$  N. - long.  $122^{\circ}31' 41''$  W., then returning west about 900 feet to the beginning, the southwest corner. Precise boundaries, as described above, are recorded in red on a copy of U.S. Geological Survey Map: Gig Harbor Quadrangle, Washington, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic), 1959, on file with the Branch of Historical Surveys, Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service.



## Condition

### A. Granary, 1843.

The Granary, measuring 20 by 31 feet, is a one-story building built in the post-in-the-sill manner. In this method of construction a sill of heavy timbers was laid down for the base of the proposed log structure. The ends of these timbers were usually fastened together at the corners by interlocking joints. The sill sometimes rested directly on the ground but more often, as was the case with the present granary, was elevated by wooden blocks or piles. At the corners and at convenient intervals along the sill, usually at every 6 to 10 feet, heavy upright posts were planted by means of mortises. These uprights were grooved, and into their grooves were slid the tenoned ends of horizontally-lying logs or timbers which filled the empty spaces between the uprights and formed the wall.

In the granary the heavy fir logs were adzed to timbers 10 by 14 inches square with tenons on the ends. The tenons were mortised into the grooves in the heavy upright corner posts and pinned with oak dowels. Oak pegs three feet long were also driven down through holes bored in the horizontal timbers, thus making a very strong construction. The building's gabled roof is covered by hand-split cedar shakes. Batten boards comprised the siding under the eaves at the ends and the six windows have solid batten boards shutters. The round arch entrance has solid double batten doors. Inside the structure are five grain bins which are arranged around the sides of the building.

### B. Factor's House, 1845.

Erected in 1845 this frame, clapboard siding structure with attic, measures 66 by 38 feet. The 5-room house is divided by a central hall with a stairway leading to the attic. The two rooms to the left of the hall each have individual fireplaces which are set back-to-back in the center. To the right are three rooms and two of these have back-to-back fireplaces. A broad veranda extends around the front and both ends of the house. The long rectangular windows, which are arranged in pairs, are single hung and each window contains 8 panes of glass. The roof is comprised of cedar shakes. This is the oldest extant frame house in Washington.

Both the Granary and the Factor's Houses have been restored. In excellent condition, they are open to visitors.

## History

The most important establishment in the Pacific Northwest prior to 1846 was the trading post.<sup>2</sup> These fortified posts or "forts" were all built on a similar basic plan. A tall stockade comprised of upright logs enclosed a square or rectangular area. At the diagonally opposite corners of the wall were usually situated two two-story log blockhouses, which provided a flanking fire along the stockade in case of attack. Within the palisade were situated the commanding officer's house, barracks and dwellings for the trappers and their families, workshops, trading houses, and warehouses--all constructed of logs.

Fort Nisqually was built on this typical plan by Archibald McDonald for the Hudson Bay Company in 1833. Located at Dupont, 15 miles south of the future site of Tacoma, Fort Nisqually was the first permanent white settlement on Puget Sound, and it was also a communication and supply center for the Hudson's Bay Company's northern posts on the coast of the British Columbia. In addition, in 1840, Fort Nisqually became the headquarters of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, a subsidiary corporation of the Hudson's Bay Company. As a result of these increasing functions, Fort Nisqually was rebuilt and enlarged between 1843 and 1845. Fort Nisqually and its farms were occupied by the Hudson's Bay Company until 1869, when the final terms of the settlement compensating the company for giving up its possessory rights in the former Oregon Country was signed by the American and British Governments.

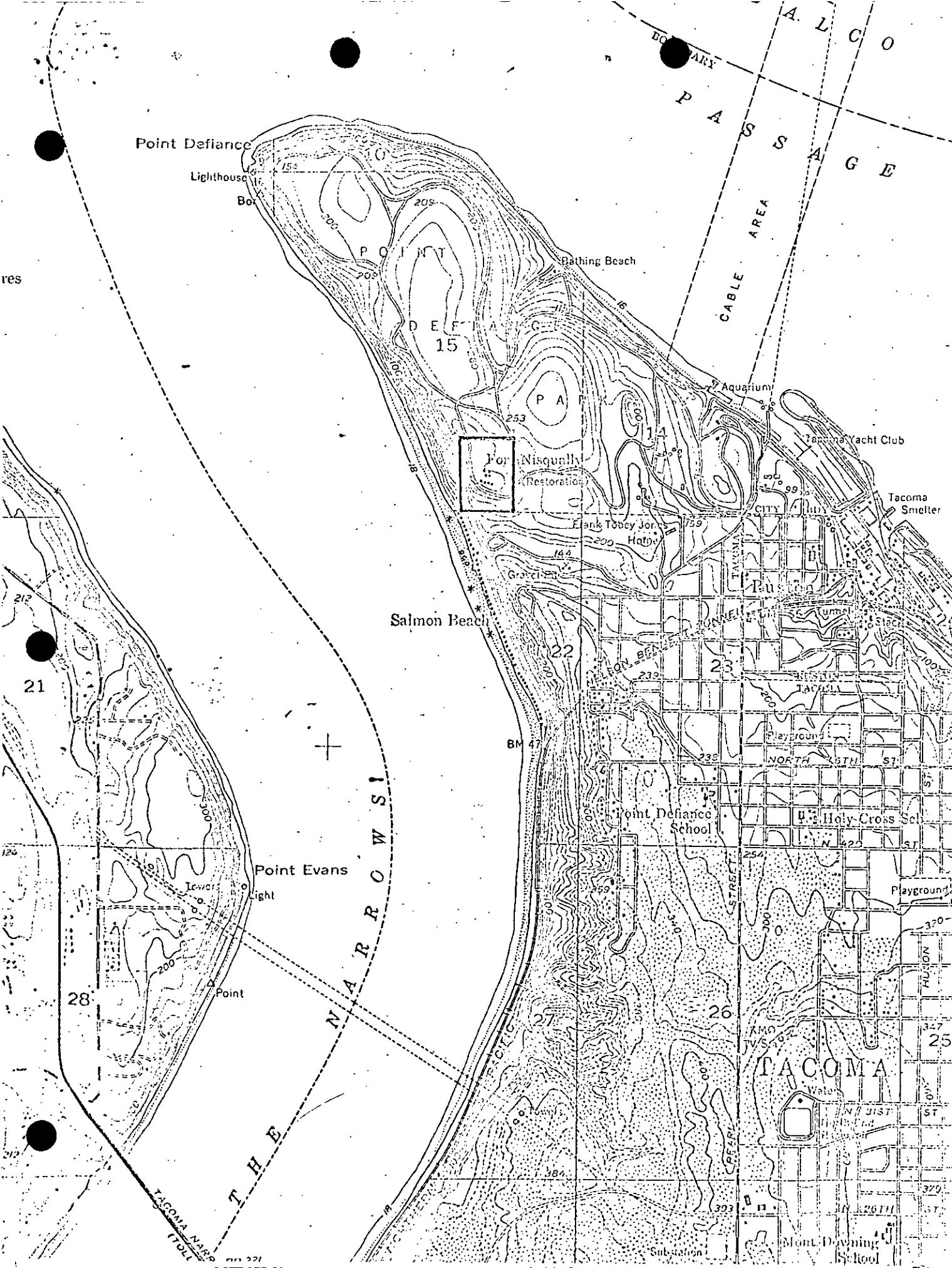
Only two original buildings of the fort, the Granary and Factor's House were standing in 1934, when these structures were removed from the original site and reerected and restored in Point Defiance Park at Tacoma. The rest of the fort, including the stockade, two blockhouses, and 8 other buildings, were reconstructed around the two original structures at the new site.

---

<sup>2</sup>The first fur trading post in the Pacific Northwest was established at Fort Astoria, Oregon, in 1811-12. Built by Americans, this company was forced by war condition to sell Fort Astoria and its other posts to a rival British fur firm in 1813. In 1821 rival British fur companies merged with the Hudson's Bay Company, and from 1821 to 1846, with a complete monopoly of the fur trade, the Hudson's Bay Company was the dominant force in the Pacific Northwest.

3). Fort Nisqually Granary, Point Defiance Park, Tacoma, Washington. Fort Nisqually was built in 1833 by Archibald McDonald on Puget Sound for the Hudson's Bay Company to serve as a communication and supply center for the Company's northern posts on the coast of British Columbia. In addition, in 1840, Fort Nisqually became the headquarters of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, a subsidiary corporation of the Hudson's Bay Company. It was then rebuilt and enlarged. Only two original buildings of the Fort, the Granary and Factor's House were still standing in 1934. The Granary, built in 1843, is a surviving original example of the Hudson's Bay Company's "post-in-the-sill" or Canadian method of log construction. This type of log construction was widely used by fur traders, missionaries, and settlers in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington prior to 1846. The Granary and Factor's House have been removed from their original site and restored in Point Defiance Park at Tacoma. The rest of Fort Nisqually has been reconstructed around the two original structures. The Fort is open to visitors.







Factor's House, Fort Nisqually, Tacoma, Washington

N.P.S. Photo, 1959



Reconstructed Buildings: Store, Granary, and Blacksmith Shop, Fort Nisqually, Tacoma, Washington N.P.S. Photo, 1959

References:

Marius Barbcare, "The House that Mac Built," The Beaver, outfit 276, (December, 1945); Alfred L. Gehri, "Fort Nisqually Lives Again," The Beaver outfit 265, No. 2 (September, 1934); Old Fort Nisqually Lives Again (Booklet written by Della Gould Emmons for the Fort Nisqually Restoration Council, Tacoma, n.d.); The New Washington (American Guide Series) (Portland, 1950), 155, 276-76. Historic American Building Survey: WASH-37, 1936-37, 11 sheets and 6 photos.